

Egypt and U.S. divided over Libya, Mubarak says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Monday his country disagreed with the United States on the subject of Libya and rejected all American interference in its foreign policy.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to university students, said: "These differences of opinion must not cast a negative shadow on our relations."

U.S. newspapers recently accused Egypt of helping Libya to get round a U.N. air embargo, imposed in April 1992 after Tripoli refused to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270.

"Certain people imagine that a campaign against the Egyptian president will push him to cut his ties with Libya. They are very wrong," Mr. Mubarak said, quoted by the official news agency MENA.

"Egypt works and will work to find a solution to the Lockerbie crisis and reject pressure to force it to take positions contrary to its beliefs and interests."

"Libya is an Arab country and a neighbour with whom we have mutual interests and where a large number of Egyptian families and workers live."

He added: "Relations between Egypt and the U.S. are based on mutual respect and we make our decision independently, rejecting any alignment or interference."

Mr. Mubarak insisted Egypt had not violated U.N. sanctions but acknowledged that a private Egyptian company had done so by flying in goods. "We have taken steps to ensure there is no repeat."

The dispute also spoke of Egypt's dispute with Israel over the Jewish state's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Egypt has threatened not to sign a renewal of the treaty in April unless Israel joins up.

"The Jewish state must take a step forward on the road to signing (the pact), which will be followed by a bigger step from us," Mr. Mubarak said.

"If Israel does not want to sign the treaty until peace is signed with all Arab states, it must set a deadline to reach comprehensive peace."

"If Israel does not want to sign because Israel possesses nuclear weapons, it must realise that is a threat to us, too."

Another U.S. intelligence document has surfaced questioning Libya's involvement in the 1988 Pan Am bombing that killed 270, a paper reported here Monday.

"A secret FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) document has demolished a key part of the case against the two Libyans accused of the bombing," said the independent, quoting papers it said were leaked ahead of a House of Commons debate on the bombing Wednesday.

The document, said the papers, challenges prosecution evidence that the bomb that destroyed the plane was loaded onto the aircraft in Frankfurt, after arriving in Germany on a different flight from Malta.

The report follows one by the Scottish Daily Record last week that U.S. intelligence documents released under the Freedom of Information Act implicated Iran, not Libya, in the explosion of the Jumbo jet.

The Record quoted a U.S. source as saying that the then-Iranian interior minister, Ayatollah Ali Akbar Mohtashami, had paid \$10 million to various groups to carry out the Lockerbie bombing and other attacks.

Both the U.S. and Britain have distanced themselves from the allegations, saying the evidence still points to Libya.

The Independent said British, German and U.S. investigators had examined Frankfurt airport computer records showing the unaccompanied suitcase thought to have contained the bomb arrived in Frankfurt from Malta on Air Malta Flight KM180.

That led British and U.S. authorities to charge Lamez Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Ali Al Megrahi, Libyan Arab Airline employees in Malta, with putting the suitcase on Flight KM180, it said.

However, the FBI briefing paper states "there is no concrete indication that any piece of luggage was unloaded from Air Malta 180, sent through the luggage routing system at Frankfurt airport, and then loaded on board Pan Am 103," the Independent said.

The document suggests the baggage records were "misleading" and the bomb suit-

Talabani seeks Turkish mediation

ANKARA (Agencies) — The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, called on Turkey Tuesday to help end bitter fighting in northern Iraq between his group and a rival faction.

"We want to maintain good relations with Turkey. I ask Turkey to mediate," the PUK chief told Ankara's newspaper Hurriyet in an interview published Tuesday.

His group has been locked in a fierce struggle for power with the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) led by Massoud Barzani in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and they have clashed sporadically since last May.

Sustained fighting broke out on Dec. 24 for control of the key town of Erbil captured by the PUK, and has so far claimed 500 lives according to Kurdish sources.

A spokesman for Mr. Barzani told the paper: "This war has been imposed on us. We are on the defensive. Talabani is trying to drag the PUK into this," referring to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which is fighting for independence in southeast Turkey.

But Mr. Talabani denied the accusation, saying: "We always want to stay friends with Turkey. We have never got involved in a war against Turkey with the PKK."

Turkey has warned warring Kurdish groups not to collaborate with the PKK, which uses northern Iraq as a secondary operations base.

Mr. Talabani added the PUK had accepted all U.N. peace initiatives, or others made by Kurdish and other Iraqi opposition groups, and blamed Mr. Barzani for the continued fighting.

"Barzani will not stop the war before he has captured Erbil," he charged.

A joint U.S. and Turkish delegation toured northern Iraq last week and met with the rival leaders.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has offered to mediate in the conflict, but the offer was immediately turned by the KDP.

The Kurds have controlled northern Iraq since the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf war in defiance of Baghdad and with the help of a U.S.-led coalition which has based its monitoring planes in Turkey.

The sporadic clashes between the two main Kurdish groups in northern Iraq show no sign of letting up and relations between the rival factions appear close to a breakdown, Iraqi Kurdish sources say.

One source in Turkey close to the PUK said the two groups were still talking to each other for the time being and that there was no "total breakdown" in the region.

"But if this goes on much longer there will be a real collapse," he told Reuters.

Judgement reserved in Achille Lauro trial

MADRID (AFP) — Judgement in the case of wealthy Syrian businessman Monzer Al Kassir, charged in connection with the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro in October 1985, was reserved Monday at the end of a three-week trial.

Under the Spanish panel code the verdict will be made public in the next days or weeks. Mr. Kassir, 49, said Monday before leaving the court in a luxury car that he was satisfied with the way the trial had turned out.

Mr. Kassir was charged with piracy, kidnapping, membership of an armed group and murder. The prosecution has demanded a 29 year prison sentence.

During the hijacking of the Achille Lauro Kingfisher, an American, was murdered. Responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

Mr. Kassir, who describes himself as "an honest arms dealer," is believed to have carried out services for the Spanish Interior Ministry, was arrested in Madrid in June 1992. He was freed on bail of \$16 million a year later.

His lawyers called Monday for him to be acquitted, claiming the case against him had not been proved. They argued that the investigation,

India, Turkey sign pacts

NEW DELHI (R) — India and Turkey signed taxation and tourism agreements on Tuesday and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said the two countries could support each other's interests in Central Asia.

The bilateral pacts were signed on the fringes of Mr. Demirel's four-day visit to India, the first by a high-ranking Turkish leader in six years.

Mr. Demirel met both President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on the second day of his visit.

Mr. Demirel and Mr. Rao decided that bilateral trade, valued at about \$185 million last year, should increase "several times," domestic news agencies said. Mr. Rao cited opportunities in communications and satellite projects.

Mr. Demirel said Dr. Sharma's visit to Turkey in July 1993 was a turning point which had given a boost to relations, a statement by the Indian president's office said.

"However, the full potential of the relationship had yet to be tapped," it said.

"India and Turkey must strengthen cooperation in the economic, cultural and political fields, as well as on international issues," the statement quoted Dr. Sharma as saying.

The Indian president emphasised a shared commitment to multi-party democracy and secularism and said both countries had embraced economic reforms.

"President Demirel reciprocated these sentiments and emphasised that Turkey and India could work together in regions like Central Asia," the statement said.

Turkey has expressed interest in forming trilateral ties with India and Central Asian nations. India has opened a consulate in Istanbul to promote ties with those states.

Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and Turkish Minister of State Bekir Sami Dace signed an agreement preventing double taxation of businesses.

The pact aims to encourage the bilateral flow of technology, investment, trade and services.

It also provides for lower rates of taxation of investment incomes such as dividends and interest.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq tells Arabs not to sign NPT

CAIRO (R) — Iraq on Tuesday called on Arab countries not to sign an extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless Israel does and warned that Israel's nuclear arsenal threatened Arab security. Nabil Najem, Iraq's permanent representative to the 22-member Arab League, also said Israel must allow international inspectors to examine its nuclear installations. "Iraq stresses that there must be a link between the extension of the treaty and Israel's acceptance to sign it and Israel's acceptance to open all its nuclear reactors to international inspection," Mr. Najem said in a statement. "Israel is the only party in the region that has not signed the current treaty, refuses to sign the new treaty, refuses to open its installations for international inspection and continues to produce nuclear and mass destruction weapons, which pose a dangerous threat to Arab national security and to peace in the region," he added.

Cyprus court adjourns trial of Britons

NICOSIA (R) — The trial of three British soldiers charged in Cyprus with the murder of a Danish woman was adjourned on Tuesday following the appointment of a new attorney general. Hearing will resume on Feb. 15 with the participation of new Attorney General Alecos Markides, who replaced the retired Michailakis Triantafyllides on Monday. "It will give the new attorney general time to study further the case and be ready to appear before the court," Chief Prosecutor Petros Clerides told Reuters. The Supreme Court will hear legal arguments on a criminal court's decision in November to grant a pre-trial hearing and complaints over composition of that court's three-member bench. It will then decide if prison wardens violated the soldiers' rights by taking away the written notes of two of the accused, Alan Ford, 26, from Birmingham, Justin Fowler, 27, from Falmouth, Cornwall, and Jeff Parnell, 23, from Oldbury in the West Midlands, are accused of the manslaughter of tour guide Louise Jensen, 23, last September. Her battered body was found in a shallow grave near the resort town of Paralimni. The three soldiers, who served at a British base on the island, are detained at Nicosia central prison.

Gunmen shoot dead Kurdish party official

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Unidentified gunmen have shot dead a provincial official of the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP) in southeast Turkey in the second such attack in two weeks, security officials said on Tuesday. Vasif Cetin, a HADEP administrative official, was gunned down on a central street of Batman town on Monday night, they said. On Jan. 17, Batman's HADEP Provincial Secretary Zeki Altig died on the way to hospital after being attacked by two unidentified gunmen near his home. Since 1991, scores of Kurdish activists, among them politicians, lawyers, writers and trade unionists, have been mysteriously murdered in Turkey, mainly in the southeast. Kurds blame the murders on shadowy forces connected with the state. Ankara denies any such groups exist. The mainly-Kurdish southeast is site of a decade-long insurgency by the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK). More than 14,000 people have died in the PKK's battle for an independent state in the southeast.

Israelis train Palestinian bank guards

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Former Israeli army and police sharpshooters are training Palestinians to guard banks on the occupied West Bank, Israeli radio reported Tuesday. Security guard company Ilysa has already given two-day courses north of Tel Aviv to eight Palestinians and about 100 more are enrolled to follow. The men will be employed to protect banks at Nablus and Ramallah. However, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper quoted "angry" Israeli security officials who warned of the dangers of teaching Palestinians to fire guns. Ilysa owner Ikutiel Yossef said he had obtained permission from the army and security services. "It's better that we train the Palestinians than our foreign competitors such as the Germans who had already offered to do so," he said.

UAE car thieves drive into police trap

DUBAI (R) — A gang of thieves drove into trouble in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when they tried to sell three stolen four-wheel drive cars for the price of one. UAE newspapers quoted police on Tuesday as saying the theft of the three Toyota Landcruisers from a used car dealer's yard in Sharjah on Monday was masterminded by a Lebanese and carried out by another Lebanese and three Russians. The gang aroused suspicion when they offered the three cars for 165,000 dirhams (\$45,000), about the market value for one. Sharjah Criminal Investigation Department Director Sultan Al Nuaimi was quoted as saying. They drove the cars into a garage leased by police after an undercover agent promised the gang chief a sale. The five were arrested and the cars returned to the dealer, who was not aware they were missing, newspapers said.

Swiss Lebanese in scandal get Swiss nationality

BERN (AP) — A Lebanese financier at the centre of one of Switzerland's biggest ever political scandals has been granted Swiss citizenship. Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman Viktor Schlumpf said Monday that Mohammad Shakharchi met all the requirements for citizenship. He has lived in the country for 20 years and is married to a Swiss woman. Mr. Shakharchi came to prominence after his firm, Shakharchi Trading AG, came under investigation for suspected drug money laundering in the late 1980s. Former Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp tipped off her husband, Hanns, about the investigations in a secret phone call and told him to resign as a director of the company. The incident caused uproar. Ms. Kopp, the first female minister, had to resign her post. She was put on trial for violating the official secrets act but cleared in February 1990. Charges were never laid against Shakharchi despite a lengthy investigation.

Cairo talks tough, but opposition to bloodshed grows

CAIRO (AP) — After the bloodiest day in Egypt's Islamic insurgency, the government appears more determined than ever to crush the militants' three-year campaign.

But a rising toll and simmering anger in the countryside has led some to ask: What will be the cost to the country from the government crackdown?

"The police have declared war, a secret war, against the fundamentalists," said Negad Al Borai, secretary-general of the Human Rights Organisation for Egyptian Rights. "The weapon is boss, and the police are talking about revenge."

In several clashes Saturday, police shot dead 16 suspected militants, and extremists killed two policemen and two civilians. Twelve of the suspects were killed as police tried to flush militants out of hideouts in quarries in Minya, a province 200 kilometres south of Cairo where fighting has been fiercest.

Another suspected militant was killed Sunday in Gena. The deaths brought to 82 the number of people killed this month as almost daily battles have intensified. It is the highest monthly death toll so far in the insurgency, rivaling the toll for all of 1992 when 93 people were killed. The war is being fought in southern Egypt. The extremist strike at village police stations, often targeting those drafted into the security service who are little trained and sometimes unarmed. The radicals have declared that the secular government is corrupt and must be replaced by Islamic rule.

Typically, police raids that bring high death tolls among militants come a day or two after major attacks on police. On Friday, militants killed six police who were escorting a tourist convoy in Minya.

The stepped-up battles have accompanied a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist organisation. Though officially outlawed as

a political party, the Brotherhood has been tolerated by the government.

But following the arrest of 27 Brotherhood members, including a former legislator, the government sought to link it to the radical Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group). President Hosni Mubarak also pointedly warned opposition parties, unions and anti-government journalists to stay in line.

"The honest opposition critics and advisers, but it does not fabricate and instigate," Mr. Mubarak said in a nationally televised speech last week. "It is committed to the limits of legitimacy and does not cross them."

The hardline interior minister, Hassan Al Afifi, has sounded a similar note, calling the Muslim Brotherhood a cloak for radical groups operating in Egypt and other Arab countries.

The government's response has been fierce, particularly in the south.

Security forces have clamped curfews on villages and arrested hundreds. Fields of towering sugar cane, used by militants as hideouts, have been cut down. Armoured personnel carriers rumble along village streets.

The tactics have been justified as necessary to quell the attacks. Even some opposition journalists have endorsed them.

"These groups should know the killing of innocent people will only make Egypt more intent on ending this black chapter in our history, however high the sacrifices," wrote Mustafa Bakry, editor of the opposition paper Al Ahrar.

Others, however, are urging a change — a shift from meeting violence with violence with an eye towards resolving the conflict.

"The violence will keep increasing," said Nabil Abdul Fattah of Cairo's Al Ahram Centre of Political and Strategic Studies.

"We need a new strategy in facing the fundamentalists to remove this pattern of violence — a political strategy depending on political imagination and new blood in the machinery of the government and the machinery of administration," he said.

Calls for a different approach are even appearing in the state government press.

Egypt's most popular magazine, Ros al Yousef, blamed both the rebels and the government for the surge in violence. Mustafa Amin, among the country's most renowned columnists, pleaded for a dialogue.

"If we can reconcile with Israel, why can't we reconcile with our sons and countrymen," he wrote in the state-owned Al Akhbar newspaper.

"Enough of the differences, enough of Egyptians shooting our Egyptian sons, enough of the detentions and enough of the terrorism. We need a period in which we can bring our positions closer and stop the war we are waging on ourselves," he wrote.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Diplodo
17:30 Envoy Special "Magazine"
19:00 News in French
19:30 Ramadan in the World
19:45 E=M6
20:00 Law and Order
21:10 The Cinder Path
22:00 News in English
22:40 Sonny River
23:00 Feature film "Spooky"

PRAYER TIMES
06:06 Fajr
06:36 (Sunrise) Duha
11:09 Dhuhr
14:47 'Asr
17:12 Maghreb
18:32 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swediff, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757
Terrence Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 661955
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649322.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bullish supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be sunny with temperatures rising slightly and winds southerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/14
Aqaba 10/22
Deraa 2/17
Jordan Valley 8/21
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31/4
Aqaba 20/22
Deraa 17/21
Jordan Valley 8/21

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 13 Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent. Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 682953
Dr. Yousef Rasheed 896301
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 759155
Dr. Mustafa Hazratalla 685559
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636750
Yacoub pharmacy 640445
Shuciani pharmacy 637660
Najab pharmacy 847632

DRAMA:
Dr. Ahmad Qamr (-)
Al Ouds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mubashir Al Hijawi 981217
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 121/111, 637777
Rural Police 192, 121/111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 779121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/322
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akkleh Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathias, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muashar Hospital 667271/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 654646
Italian, Al-Muhajirun 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26
Army, J. Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital 6900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)900560
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)274100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)4111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:35 Aqaba (RJ)
08:35 Beirut (RJ)
08:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 London (RJ)
10:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
16:35 London (RJ)
16:45 Istanbul (RJ)
18:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:15 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:20 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:35 Rome (RJ)
23:40 Beirut (RJ)
06:20 Cairo (RJ)

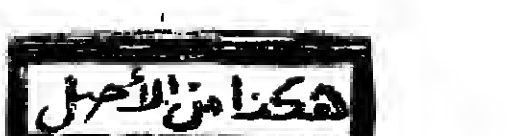
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 Rome (RJ)
08:30 Berlin, London (RJ)
10:40 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 Istanbul (RJ)
15:15 Colombo (RJ)
15:25 Beirut (RJ)
19:40 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Aden (RJ)
20:45 New Delhi (RJ)
21:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)
05:30 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:35 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Sanaa (YV)
18:30 Jeddah (SV)
14:20 Algiers (AH)
15:45 Karachi (PK)
19:45 Larnaca (CY)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
23:40 Athens (OA)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 p.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upshotower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/400
Banana (Mokhammad) 680
Banana (Mokhammad) 620
Cabbage 150/80
Carrot 230/120
Cauliflower 150/100
Cucumbers (large) 200/120
Cucumbers (small) 450/250
Eggplant 300/240
Garlic 850/500
Grape Fruit 300/200
Lemon 300/200
Marrow (large) 200/100
Marrow (small) 300/220
Onion (green) 300/200
Onion (dry) 320/200
Orange 700/500
Pepper (hot) 1100/600
Pepper (sweet) 450/250
Potato 120/80
Radish 180/100
Spinach 120/80
String Beans 900/500
Tomato 400/250



IN BRIEF

Not to sign NPT

Tuesday called on Arab states to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and warned that the Arab League would not support any state that signed the treaty without also signing the 22-member Arab League's demand for Israel to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities. "Israel is the only country in the world that has refused to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection," he said. "This is a serious challenge to the security and peace of the Middle East."

Days trial of British

The British soldiers who were involved in the killing of a Palestinian in the West Bank have been ordered to stand trial for a period of 14 days. The soldiers were accused of firing at a crowd of Palestinians in the town of Ramat al-Mishmar in 1994. The trial is being held in a military court in Ramat al-Mishmar.

Lead Kurdish party

The lead Kurdish party in the Iraqi Kurdistan region has announced that it will support the new Iraqi government. The party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), has been a major force in the region since the 1991 uprising. The announcement comes as the new Iraqi government is being formed.

Lebanese bank

The Lebanese bank has announced that it will be opening a branch in Amman. The bank, the Lebanese Bank for Foreign Trade, has been operating in Lebanon since 1960. The new branch in Amman will be the bank's first in Jordan. The bank's president, Mr. Sami al-Khatib, said that the bank was pleased to be able to serve the Jordanian market.

Drive into police

A group of people have driven into the police station in Amman. The group, which was led by a man named Mr. al-Husseini, was protesting against the government. They were demanding that the government release a man named Mr. al-Husseini, who they said had been arrested without any charges. The police said that they had no information about the group.

Swiss

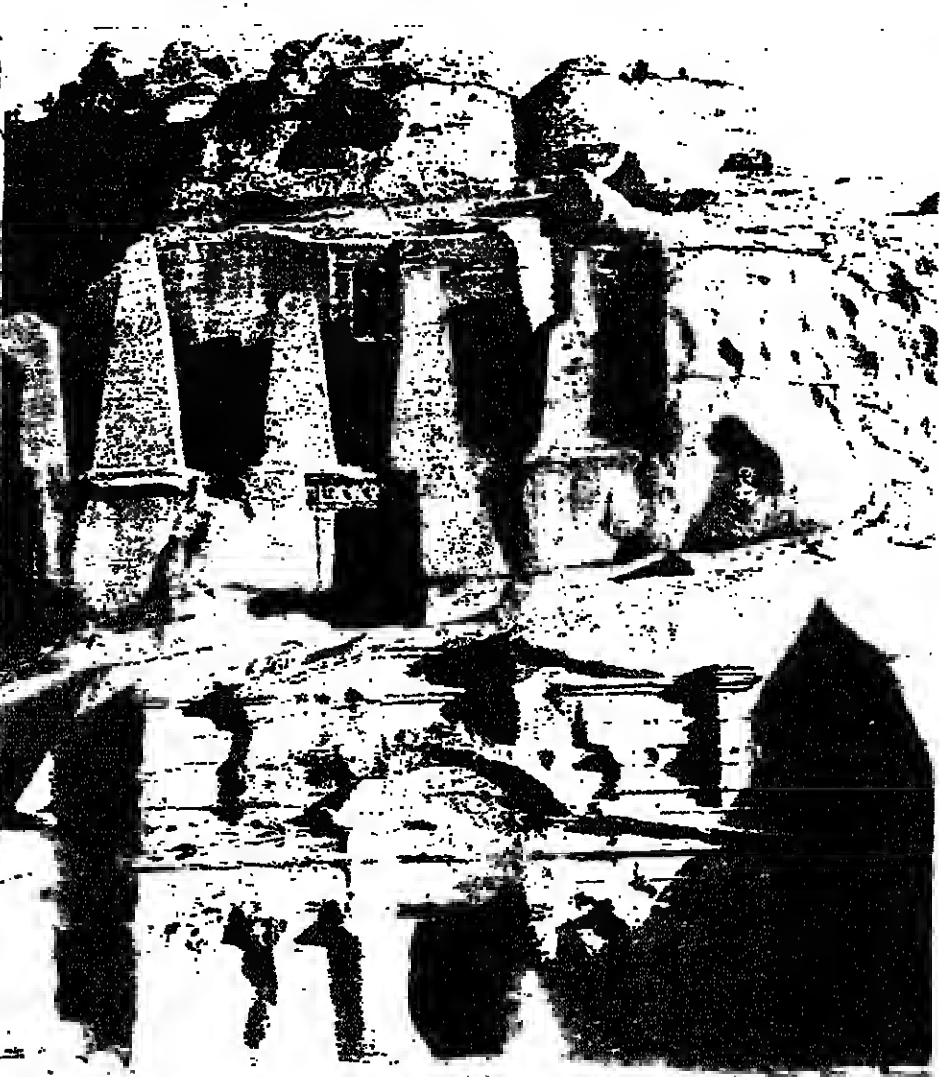
The Swiss government has announced that it will be providing aid to the people of Jordan. The aid will be in the form of food and medical supplies. The Swiss government said that it was pleased to be able to help the people of Jordan, who have been suffering from the effects of the conflict in the Middle East. The aid will be provided through the United Nations.

Hijab

The Hijab has been a topic of debate in Jordan. Some people believe that it is a religious requirement, while others believe that it is a cultural tradition. The government has said that it will not interfere with the wearing of the Hijab. However, some people have said that the wearing of the Hijab is a sign of oppression. The debate is still ongoing.

Market

The market in Amman has been busy. There are many people buying and selling goods. The prices of many goods have gone up. This is because of the conflict in the Middle East. People are buying more food and other goods because they are worried about the future. The market is a good sign for the economy.



The tomb of the obelisks in Petra

Queen visits Petra's tourism facilities

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited the Petra region to inspect tourism reception facilities and services, according to a Royal Court statement. The Queen, who is the patron of the Petra National Trust, was accompanied by the Minister of Tourism, Mr. al-Husseini, and the Mayor of Petra, Mr. al-Husseini. They visited the Petra Visitor Centre, where the Queen was shown a model of the Petra National Trust's plans for the development of the site. The Queen also visited the Petra Archaeological Park, where she saw the famous Treasury and the Monastery. The Queen's visit was part of her tour of Jordan.

During the visit, the Queen toured the Ministry of Tourism Visitors Centre, where the Queen was shown a model of the Petra National Trust's plans for the development of the site. The Queen also visited the Petra Archaeological Park, where she saw the famous Treasury and the Monastery. The Queen's visit was part of her tour of Jordan.

Queen Noor, honorary chairperson and patron of the Petra National Trust, dismounted with Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah al-Khatib ways to aesthetically enhance the entrance to Petra and to facilitate visitors' access to information, brochures and maps of Petra.

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QAF to launch fifth Ramadan charity drive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan today the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) launches its fifth charity campaign to raise cash and in-kind contributions for the needy in Jordan.

A QAF official told the Jordan Times that 10,000 boy scouts and girl guides involved in the campaign throughout the Kingdom will be touring districts in the cities to collect cash contributions, and QAF committees will be on standby for calls from individuals and institutions to come and collect in-kind contributions such as food, medicines, blankets and clothing.

The scouts and guides will be in uniform and will have cash collection boxes with proper identification labels, according to the official.

Should weather condition remain favourable, he said, the youth will start their drive on Feb. 6.

The official said donors can call at any one of QAF's 45 centres in Jordan and bring in their cash or in-kind contributions.

The previous four Ramadan charity campaigns were

highly successful, and the contributions benefited 15,000 needy families in 1994 compared to 8,200 the previous year, according to the official.

The charity campaign, he said, also aims at helping the needy who are in poor health by providing medicines or covering the cost of required surgeries.

The contributions also are used to give loans to head of households, train able family members in a trade, finance the education of promising needy students in universities and give in-kind aid to poor families in the form of food and clothing.

Last year, the disbursements followed the same pattern and the QAF used JD 12,000 to buy a dialysis unit for the Ma'an Hospital to be used in the treatment of kidney patients.

On Feb. 4, QAF will present a similar unit which cost JD 15,000 to Salt Hospital, said the official.

The cost of these units were collected in last year's campaigns, added the official, who gave no figures of the total collections in 1994, but said they were much higher than the JD 40,000 collected in 1993.

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Convicted murderers each sentenced to 7½ years

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Tuesday passed sentences of seven and a half years each in two separate cases of premeditated murder.

According to court papers, the two convicted men each received 15 years with hard labour, but the sentences were reduced to seven and a half years because the families of both criminals dropped their charges.

In the first case, the court paper said, Khalid Hussein was sentenced to seven and a half years with hard labour for killing his 16-year-old sister Kifaya in the Zaghait suburb in Jabal Hashmi Shmali on May 29, 1994.

The court papers said that on the evening of May 29, Khalid stabbed his sister to death to "cleanse the family's honour."

Kifaya, one of 10 siblings, was raped by her 21-year-old brother Mohammad on Nov. 13, 1993. She became pregnant, was forced by her family to

undergo an abortion and then was married off to a 50-year-old man who divorced her on May 29; that night, her brother Khalid killed her.

On October 13, Kifaya's brother Mohammad was sentenced to 13 years and four months in prison for the rape and attempted murder of his sister.

In the second case, Rimona Sawaker was sentenced to seven and a half years for killing his 29-year-old sister Romina in her apartment in the Sweifheh area of Amman on Aug. 12, 1994.

The court said that Romina, a Christian wanted to marry a Muslim man, but her family opposed the idea.

According to the court, Rimona argued with his sister about the proposed marriage and when the argument reached a deadlock, Rimona went to his room, brought out an unlicensed gun and shot his sister five times in the head and chest.

Autopsy reveals torture of 2-year-old

An autopsy on a two-

year-old girl who died in hospital Sunday revealed that the child had been tortured and severely beaten, according to medical reports.

Initial police reports had said that Oamar Abdul Latif of the Ajaran area of Amman, was slapped by her 20-year-old brother.

But the autopsy showed that the girl was severely beaten on the head and several parts of her body.

"The girl suffered from a fractured skull and internal bleeding which caused her death," an official at Al Bashir Hospital where the autopsy was performed told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

In an earlier police report, the suspect who was not identified, told police that he did not intend to kill his sister and that he had slapped her because she was crying. The mother of the toddler went to work and left the child alone with her older brother.

The suspect remains under arrest pending further investigations into the case.

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Open air produce markets to open for Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Tuesday said it has reached agreement with the Amman Municipality on setting up open air produce markets in Amman's suburbs during the month of Ramadan.

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Quake-hit Kobe gives emperor cool welcome

KOBE, Japan (R) — Earthquake-devastated Kobe gave Emperor Akihito a generally cool reception Tuesday when he visited the port city two weeks after more than 5,000 people perished in Japan's worst postwar disaster.

Some refugees said the emperor was being used to deflect anger from the response of Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's government to the Jan. 17 disaster which left 270,000 people homeless.

The government has been heavily criticised and some refugees said the emperor should share responsibility for deaths in Kobe slums for failing to end discrimination against the poor which stems from an ancient class system he heads.

But other refugees were thrilled by his encouragement after losing families and friends, homes and businesses.

"The emperor should use his head," said one shopkeeper who lost one of her two stores and asked not to be named. "He's being used by politicians and isn't going to accomplish anything by coming here."

The government has been accused of complacency and delays in sending help, especially the army, to Kobe when it was ripped apart by the huge quake.

The National Police Agency death toll stood at 5,096 with 13 still listed as missing Tuesday. But city officials

said the figure could go as high as 5,400 as some 300 deaths had not been reported yet to police.

The quake also destroyed or severely damaged 103,000 buildings and nearly 270,000 evacuees were still camped out in schools and gymnasiums.

Another refugee, while not critical of the emperor himself, blamed the centuries-old imperial class system for severe damage in the Kobe borough of Nagata.

"I'm not saying Akihito is personally responsible for the damage in Nagata-Ku, but the system he represents certainly played its part," a 40-year-old refugee told Reuters.

She said Nagata, in western Kobe where hundreds of flimsy, old houses were gutted by fires that killed about 700 people, was home to poor "burakumin," descendants of the untouchable class of the Edo period (1603-1868).

The woman said discrimination against Burakumin resulted in poor houses and narrow roads, with public buildings — such as schools and hospitals — few and far between.

"Nagata-Ku has been a slum for 200 years and nothing has been done about it," said the woman refugees. "Everything about the place was of lower standard than the rest of Kobe."

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's arrival in Kobe coincided with the coldest weather since the earth-

quake struck.

Light snow fell in the early morning and the temperature was minus 1.8 degrees Celsius (28 degrees Fahrenheit). Most houses still standing and evacuation centres lack gas for heating.

At the Nishinomiya Gymnasium, which houses 1,100 evacuees, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko tried their best to cheer up the mainly elderly evacuees and spoke to exhausted relief workers.

"Please take good care of your health. I appreciate your work," Emperor Akihito told city workers. He was dressed in a simple turtle-neck sweater, informal jacket and leather shoes.

"Not all Kobe people were critical of the imperial visit. After about 10 days people were starting to get sick of watching pictures of Kobe at home," said Hideo Wong, 38, a grocer. "But the emperor's visit has drawn attention back here and if that helps the relief effort then it's a good thing."

Haruo Akira, 28, a construction worker, also praised the visit.

"The emperor is still very important in Japan and his visit here today is giving some people the spirit to continue and rebuild their lives," said Akira.

The Bank of Japan said Tuesday it had exchanged some 163 million yen (\$1.6 million) worth of bank notes, which had been burned in the aftermath of the Jan. 17 Kobe quake, for new ones.

U.N. launches Gorazde medical evacuation

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations began an operation Tuesday to evacuate nearly 200 sick Muslims and Serbs from the eastern Bosnian enclave of Gorazde.

Heavy fighting raged in the northwestern enclave of Bihac with hundreds of artillery shells and mortars reported during Monday and overnight into Tuesday morning, the U.N. said.

The U.N. expressed concern at the involvement of Serb troops from the Krajina region of Croatia, backed by tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery, in ground fighting in the Bihac enclave.

The United Nations said Norwegian armoured ambulances had reached Gorazde and were starting to collect and process evacuees at the U.N. there. About 100 people were expected to be brought to Sarajevo later Tuesday.

A second convoy of Canadian U.N. vehicles was being sent to Gorazde to collect the rest of the evacuees.

"Everything is going as planned," said an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The U.N. Protection Force reported more heavy fighting in the Bihac enclave, with 635 artillery and mortar shells logged in the past 24 hours.

U.N. spokesman Paul Risley said Krajina Serb forces, which have previously provided artillery support, were now involved in ground fighting on Bosnian territory in the Bihac enclave.

The Krajina Serbs were fighting alongside renegade Muslim units loyal to business tycoon Fikret Abdic in their battle against the Bosnian army 5th Corps.

He said there was "a clear presence of RSK (Krajina



Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith (left), U.N. commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina, shakes hands with Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic after a meeting Sunday. The United Nations

received Tuesday a final clearance from all warring parties for a medical evacuation of nearly 200 Muslims and Serbs from the Gorazde enclave (AFP photo)

Serb) troops on the ground, with tanks, artillery and APCs (armoured personnel carriers), well within Bosnia."

Mr. Risley also expressed concern at an outbreak of fighting between Serb forces and units of the Muslim-led Bosnian army in the government-held enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

"Fighting between the Bosnian army and the Serbs flared up again in Srebrenica yesterday, with some 36 detonations and 200 machinegun bursts reported," Mr. Risley told Reuters.

Srebrenica was declared a United Nations "safe area" in early 1993 when Bosnian Serbs almost overran the tiny enclave and it has been relatively quiet since.

Mr. Risley said the Serbs encroached on the enclave

with two tanks two weeks ago. They captured a bill in the western part of the enclave, patrolled by Dutch U.N. troops.

Bosnian army troops within the enclave responded by blockading the 97 Dutch peacekeepers. They have refused to allow the Dutch to leave and insist they should force the Serbs to withdraw to the positions they held before a nationwide Jan. 1 truce took effect.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel arrived in Sarajevo from Zagreb, where he told Croatian President Franjo Tudjman that his decision to order U.N. peacekeepers to leave the country was a mistake.

"I told President Tudjman the decision to eject the U.N. Protection Force from Croatia was a mistake," Mr.

Kinkel told reporters.

Mr. Tudjman has told 12,000 U.N. troops in Croatia they must leave after their mandate expires at the end of March.

The blue helmets are supervising an uneasy truce in areas seized by Serbs who rebelled against Croatia's 1991 declaration of independence from former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Tudjman argues that their presence simply freezes the Serbs' territorial gains, but many international observers believe the departure of the U.N. troops will be followed by more fighting between Croats and Serbs.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic refused Tuesday to meet with international peace mediators for Croatia, Peter Galbraith, the U.S. ambassador to Croatia, said.

Tempers flare as Democrats chafe at minority role in U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — Tempers flared in the U.S. House of Representatives as Democrats rebelled against Republican efforts to keep their Contract With America legislation moving along at a quick pace.

On the floor of the House and in committee Democrats charged they were being "gagged" by the tyranny of the majority when debate was limited on legislation.

Republicans countered that Democrats were using "guerilla tactics" to prevent passage of the Republican agenda within the first 100 days, as House Speaker Newt Gingrich has said he intends to do.

Late in the day the House

erupted into a noisy fray when Republican leaders decided to limit debate on a bill to curb unfunded federal mandates — one of the items in the Republican agenda. The bill was floundering on the floor after five days of debate on over 100 amendments.

"We are going to get these bills through Congress," House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, a New York Republican, told the House. Republican leaders threatened to keep the House in session as long as possible to move forward on the bill.

Democrat Bruce Vento of Minnesota objected that

more time was needed. "There is no bipartisan effort to work on this bill," he said. "We have a right to offer amendments," said Democrat Kweisi Mfume of Maryland.

Republican Dan Burton of Indiana said "every single" dilatory tactic that can be employed is being employed to slow down the Contract With America," he said.

In committees also, civility was strained.

Democrat Lee Hamilton, chairman of the international relations panel until the Nov. 8 election, said he could not remember such heavy handed tactics in his 30 years in office.

N. Zealand premier invited to White House

WELLINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday opened the White House door to New Zealand, 11 years after Washington slammed it shut in a row over the Pacific nation's anti-nuclear policies.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott passed on the invitation to Prime Minister Jim Bolger to visit Mr. Clinton in Washington on March 27.

The move marked a symbolic end to the long, deep chill between the two countries, and a desire to move ahead despite continuing disagreement on the nuclear issue.

"I think we must see this as going forward," Mr. Bolger told reporters after talks with Mr. Talbott.

"I don't think there's any desire on anybody's behalf that we should somehow or other try to blot out from the

history of the relationship the last 10 years."

Mr. Bolger and Mr. Talbott both stressed the two sides had more to talk about than the vexed nuclear question, which led to New Zealand's exclusion from the ANZUS alliance with the United States and Australia.

"That will be on the agenda, surely, because it is an issue of bilateral importance, but it will be one of many issues," Mr. Talbott said.

"That's entirely up to the president, what issues he wants to raise with me," said Mr. Bolger. "New Zealand's (anti-nuclear) position is above board. Everybody knows what it is. I'm happy to discuss that with the president."

Relations between the two countries soured in the mid-1980s, when Prime Minister David Lange's labour gov-

ernment banned nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed vessels from New Zealand's territorial waters.

Washington suspended high-level diplomatic contacts in 1987, a move reversed by the Clinton administration only last year. Exclusion from ANZUS means New Zealand is still barred from joint exercises and intelligence-sharing.

Anti-nuclear sentiment in New Zealand was strengthened by a sense of outrage when French secret agents in 1985 blew up the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior. Due to sail from Auckland Harbour to protest French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Mr. Bolger's conservative government has upheld the anti-nuclear legislation since taking power in 1990, and overwhelming public support for the policy makes its removal unthinkable.

Boyz II Men kick off 22nd Annual American Music Awards with win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The soulful vocal group Boyz II Men won three honours at the 22nd Annual American Music Awards on the strength of their sensuous single I'll Make Love To You.

"It's a song about love. It's something we believe in — romance and falling in love that two lovers do," group member Shawn Stockman said, describing the song backstage.

Boyz II Men was named favourite group in the soul-rhythm and blues category and I'll Make Love To You collected trophies for favourite pop-rock and soul singles.

Boyz II Men won favourite new artist in 1992 and earned two more awards in 1993.

Snoop Doggy Dogg won his first American Music Award, for favourite rap-hop artist.

"First of all, I'd like to thank God," said the rapper, who is facing a murder charge stemming from the 1993 shooting of a man at a Los Angeles park.

Vince Gill won the favourite country single award for Whenever You Come Around. Reba McEntire's Read My Mind won the country album honour. It was her 11th career American Music Award.

Alabama was named favourite country group for the 13th straight year, bringing its career total to 18.

Awards were being given in 22 categories across a broad range of American



Rap artist Warren G (left) acknowledges the award received by Snoop Doggy Dogg (Calvin Broadus) at the 22nd Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles. Brodus, who won as

favourite artist in the rap-hop category, awaits trial in Los Angeles after being accused in a gang-style murder in 1993 (AFP photo)

music in a show that featured an eclectic array of talent. The show featured rock veteran Little Richard singing his oldie hit Tutti Frutti with the Go-Gos.

Mariah Carey was one of two leading nominees going into the night, but won just one trophy, for favourite pop-rock female artist.

Despite competition from Carey's Music Box, and Counting Crows' August and Everything After, the soundtrack from The Lion King collected the pop-rock album award.

Tim McGraw was named best new country artist, topping a field that included Faith Hill and The Mavericks.

Sweden's quartet Ace of Base, which has a hit with The Sign, scored the favourite new pop-rock artist award.

Toni Braxton collected the soul-R and B album award for her self-titled work. The favourite female soul-R and B artist was Anita Baker.

The youthful vocalists All-4-One were named favourite soul-rhythm and blues artists.

Nirvana, which lost leader singer Kurt Cobain in a suicide last year, was named favourite artist in the heavy metal-hard rock category, besting Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots. The remaining members of Nirvana did not attend the show.

Counting Crows overcame

competition from Green Day and Nine Inch Nails to claim the favourite artist award in alternative music.

The Award of Merit went to the artist formerly known as Prince, recognising "outstanding contributions to the musical entertainment of the American public." Led Zeppelin received the International Artist Award, which has only been given twice previously, to Michael Jackson and Rod Stewart.

Nominees were selected based on sales information supplied by the Music Industry Trade Publication Radio and Records and Soundscan Inc. Winners were chosen by a national sampling of 20,000 people.

Simpson lawyer gives alibi for 1st time

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson could not have killed his ex-wife and her friend because he was at his estate practising his golf swing at the time of the murders.

So went the defence's main argument Monday as the so-called "trial of the century" edged closer than it has ever been in the last two weeks to actually hearing a witness rather than lawyers fighting with each other or with the judge.

Lead defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran offered the jury a minute-by-minute explanation of his client's actions during the one hour and 15 minutes the prosecution says the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman took place.

While the murders were taking place — a time the prosecution has fixed at 10:15 p.m. local time when neighbours heard Nicole Simpson's dog barking — Simpson was putting around his Brentwood estate two miles away, Mr. Cochran said.

He finished eating a Big Mac in his house just before

9:45 p.m. and walked out of the main house to use the cellular phone in his Bronco to call his current girlfriend, Playboy model Paula Barbieri.

Simpson then practiced his golf swing hitting balls into a sandy playground used by his children with a number three and a number four club, Cochran said.

By 11 p.m., according to both sides, he is in a limousine being driven to the airport for a pre-planned trip to Chicago.

The argument took some seasoned courtroom hands by surprise since Cochran last Thursday, when he began his opening statement broken up by fierce prosecution objections, told the jury that Simpson was so crippled the day of the murders by an arthritis attack that he could not shuffle a deck of cards at his country club.

The arthritis went unmentioned Monday by the defence but the prosecution won Judge Lance Ito's approval to reopen its opening statement so it could

show jurors an exercise video Simpson also made that day.

All the judge declined to allow in the tape was a scene in which Simpson urged people not to stand too close to each other doing arm exercises so as not to hit someone — like a wife. Judge Ito ruled the scene to be in bad taste considering what happened later.

The prosecution also won the right to present a 10-minute reopening of its opening statement to the jury in addition to showing the video, they could trash a potential defence witness and otherwise dampen any enthusiasm the jury of 22 sequestered souls might be feeling for Simpson.

The witness the prosecution says it wants to discredit is a jeweller named Mary Anne Gerchak who says she saw four men — none of them black like Simpson — run from the vicinity of Nicole Simpson's home the night of the murders. Two wore wool watch caps just like one found at the scene of the crime.



Singer Anita Baker displays the award she won at the 22nd Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles. Baker won as favourite female artist in the soul-rhythm and blues category (AFP photo)



Singer Toni Braxton waves as she holds the award she won at the 22nd Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles. Braxton won for her album Toni Braxton in the soul-rhythm and blues category (AFP photo)

Playboy listens to sex talk with Zhirinovsky

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, known for taking extreme political positions, got frank about a sex fantasy in an upcoming interview, Playboy magazine said.

"We'll understand one another better if you understand right now," Mr. Zhirinovsky told a Canadian journalist whose interview with him was to appear in the March issue of the magazine.

"It's best when it's with a group," he said, encouraging a group sexual encounter between the journalist, Jennifer Gould, her translator, and two of his male bodyguards.

"There are four of you here. You have to show me love for four. I love to watch more."

To observe how people drink, smoke, this is not interesting. But to see you during coitus, these young bodies all intertwined, it's

gushed. "You will like these little boys, and these boys will care for you. And you will be listening to you and continue talking myself."

Playboy quoted him as saying the whole of Aqaba into a zone in the scheme will be the first step towards turning the whole of Aqaba into a free zone in light of a study prepared by the Royal Scientific Society. According to FZC Director Mousa Al

fahbeer, the corporation's financial allocations for this are a virgin," Ms. Gould quoted him as saying to her about her translator. "I like her more than you. The more contact I have, the more I desire I have to touch her hand to stroke it, to kiss it. And then you can write that I am inclined to be a womanizer."

"Women deceive by not saying what they think," Mr. Zhirinovsky was quoted as saying. "Consequently, you have to deceive them by not telling them what you want but what they want to hear. I transferred this concept to politics and achieved great success."

EU split in row over film quotas

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Senior officials within the European Union Monday distanced themselves from new European Commission President Jacques Santer's recent questioning of a politically sensitive quota system for European-made films.

The new European commissioner in charge of the audiovisual industry, the Spaniard Marcelino Oreja, said in Brussels Monday he had not decided whether or not to maintain or even extend the current quota system. Mr. Santer, however, had told the International Herald Tribune (IHT) newspaper Friday that he doubted the effectiveness of the quota policy.

Santer's government has decided to oblige cattle importers to provide fodder needs for the cattle for a whole month from the date of admitting the stock to the free zones or the local market. The Ministry of Supply emphasised to the importers that unless they meet the condition for fodder, their cattle shipments will not be allowed for customs clearance (AI Ra'i).

In order to organise food distribution to cattlemen, the government has decided to oblige cattle importers to provide fodder needs for the cattle for a whole month from the date of admitting the stock to the free zones or the local market. The Ministry of Supply emphasised to the importers that unless they meet the condition for fodder, their cattle shipments will not be allowed for customs clearance (AI Ra'i).

Palestinian and Jordanian businessmen have agreed to set up a Palestinian Islamic Bank with a JD 10 billion to take part in rebuilding the West Bank and Gaza and developing the Palestinian economy (AI Aswaj).

The dispute over salt taxes and supplies was temporarily resolved as the Al Azraq Society promised to continue supplies of non-subsidised salt to bakeries and consumers at the same prices until the end of Ramadan (early March) pending a study by the Ministry of Supply on the society's demand to raise prices of subsidised salt.

The industry has taken an offer by "Amra factory" to supply the bakeries and consumers with subsidised salt according to the specification and at current market prices. Such a step will lead to easing the total protection given to the Al Azraq Society for salt production and is seen as a pressure factor on the society to apply the market with subsidised salt without raising prices (AI Aswaj).

The income tax directorate in Zarqa collected JD 2.6 million last year, 31 per cent more than the JD 1.95 million collected in 1993. Although the figure for the year did not include taxes from public shareholding companies, which were collected by a special unit in Amman, the amount in 1994 was 16 per cent higher than the projected figure of JD 2.2 million (AI Ra'i).

The Civil Aviation Authority has prepared a JD 60 million plan to modernise and develop Jordanian airports over the coming four years to be able to cope with rapid changes in the air transport industry in light of the "sat" in this region in the future (AI Ra'i).

Jordan produces about 5,000 tonnes of tobacco per year and ranks 64th on a list of 95 countries (AI Ra'i).

Britain presses Japan to cut whisky tax

TOKYO (AFP) — British Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine urged Japan to correct what he called "discriminatory" duties on whisky to resolve a festering trade dispute. Mr. Heseltine raised the issue during a meeting here with Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, ministry officials said. Mr. Takemura remained non-committal, saying Tokyo would study the liquor tax issue by taking several factors into account, such as fiscal considerations, he said. He added that the tax was not the only cause behind sluggish imports of Scotch, and noted that consumption of whisky in Japan had generally been declining.

Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
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Saving Algeria

THE MONDAY carbomb in Algiers, which took the lives of 38 people and wounded more than 250, is yet another grim reminder that the civil strife in that country has no end in sight. The bomb, which exploded right in the heart of the capital and in day time to maximise the damage and fallout, is a bloody message from the opponents of peace on both sides of the conflict, which has so far claimed the lives of more than 15,000 people. The damage the bloody conflict has inflicted on the country's national economy is making the situation worse by the day. Acts of terrorism, like Monday's bomb blast, cannot possibly redress the wrong, admittedly made by the military in 1992 when they decided to abort the national elections that the Islamist National Salvation Front, (FIS), was poised to win. The decision by the government to reject out of hand the olive branch extended to it by the major opposition factions is indefensible. France, the country most privy to the ins and outs of Algerian politics has recently, though belatedly, prodded the Algerian regime to accept political dialogue as the only viable option left for the bleeding country. It is also no small matter that there is a wide convergence of views between Washington and Paris on the inevitability of political reconciliation in that country. Otherwise the entire country could still be drowned in deeper in the quagmire of conflict. It is not too late to reverse the tide of militancy, terrorism and intransigence. The holy month of Ramadan could be just the appropriate occasion to declare a truce in the ongoing fratricidal fighting. The Arab and Muslim Worlds cannot possibly sit idle while their kin fall into the abyss with all the consequences that that might entail for the Arabs and Muslims.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE withdrawal of Israeli forces from most of the occupied Jordanian lands, the Kingdom has regained lost territory and this has caused to take pride in this respect, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily Tuesday. But we have to remember that the Israelis are still holding other parts of Jordanian lands and water and exploiting them for Israel's benefits, said the writer. He said that it is unacceptable to see Israelis still exploiting Jordanian lands and waters, and we are determined that they withdraw sooner or later since sovereignty will remain incomplete with the Israeli presence on Arab lands. Peace treaties could end the state of war and allow embassies to be opened but the real peace can only come when the Arabs have regained all their rights in land and water, said the writer. If Israel continues its present policy of dealing separately with individual Arab countries with the hope of imposing its terms on them rather than reaching a lasting peace based on justice, it can never achieve its goals, said the writer. Sooner or later, he said, the Israeli forces have to withdraw from all Arab lands not only in Jordan but also in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon and only then can the Arabs feel they have truly reached the point of peace.

MOHAMAD MASALHA, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, lauded the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships for concluding agreements between them aimed at restoring normal relations. It would be unreasonable to see the two parties reaching bilateral agreements with Israel and not concluding deals between themselves because the Jordanians and the Palestinians are bound together historically and indeed they form a united family, said the writer. Everyone agrees that the agreements were necessary because everyone on both sides feels that cooperation in the various fields is bound to bolster the Jordanian and the Palestinian people's stand with regard to Israel and the outside world, he continued. Therefore, the Arab masses on both sides of the River Jordan are now looking forward to see the deals implemented and coordination and cooperation translated into practical moves, he said.



Who is running Russia?

By Timothy Heritage
Reuters

MOSCOW — The resurgence of shadowy hardliners in the Kremlin threatens Russia's democratic reforms, but the liberals in President Boris Yeltsin's inner circle have not yet lost the power struggle. Mr. Yeltsin, who is 64 on Wednesday, is widely thought to have turned almost exclusively to hawkish advisers during the conflict in Chechnya, allowing them to boost their influence at the expense of liberal aides. Some liberal leaders suggest Mr. Yeltsin has ceded control to the hawks and that Russia's brief flirtation with democracy is over. Other say all is not lost for reform. Mr. Yeltsin is still in charge and has only temporarily shut out the liberals. Both agree the president's ability to reassert himself and the struggle to influence him are central to the fate of reforms. "These questions are causing real concern. People are worried about there being a dictatorship in the future," Sergei Filatov, the liberal head of the presidential administration, told independent NTV television in an interview on Sunday. But he added: "The guarantee (of stability) today is the president. He is absolutely in charge of the situation." Russia's power crisis has heightened since Mr. Yeltsin sent troops to

Chechnya on Dec. 11 to rein in the rebel region. He took a low profile in the early phase of the conflict, prompting speculation that his authority was waning but has forced himself back into the public eye in the last two weeks with several well-orchestrated appearances. Mr. Yeltsin's clear aim is to send signals to domestic and foreign audiences that he is still firmly in charge in the Kremlin and, as during a visit to the town of Lipetsk south of Moscow last week, to give an impression of "business as usual." This has done little to ease the fears of liberals. For Grigory Yavlinsky, a prominent economist and potential rival in presidential elections next year, a creeping coup is under way in which power is seeping out of Mr. Yeltsin's hands. "You don't need to declare an open coup. You just need to surround the president with people and persistently implement your ideas," Mr. Yavlinsky told a business lunch last week. "Power is leaking to irresponsible, unknown people exercising powers the president should execute." It is hard to say with any certainty just who is winning power — the Kremlin remains almost as secretive and unfathomable as during soviet times. But liberal politicians and commentators finger a "party of war" led from within the Kremlin by

Mr. Yeltsin with analysis of events. "When a complex problem is being worked on and like in Chechnya — only one narrow component is being taken into account and military approaches prevail, this is very bad," said Mark Urmov, head of the Presidential Analytical Centre. Although Mr. Yeltsin has badly smeared his democratic credentials over Chechnya, some commentators say it is too soon to write him off as a reformer. They say the fact that secret documents, such as those proposing the formation of a national guard, are being leaked to the liberal press there are still forces in the Kremlin interested in resisting the hardliners. These commentators say the dismissal last week of Nikolai Yegorov, who was to head an interim administration in Chechnya and was a belligerent supporter of the military campaign, suggests Mr. Yeltsin's patience with hardliners is running out. "The real extent of the hardliners' threat is hard to judge. The question is whether Yeltsin is taking decisions consciously, and I think he is," a European diplomat said. "The most likely scenario is that he is in charge but taking advice from hardliners. But he has always managed to keep an equilibrium in the past and prevented any one camp becoming dominant. I think he will do the same again."

General-Major Alexander Kozhakov, Mr. Yeltsin's security chief, friend and tennis partner. Other conservatives thought to have had a major influence in policy over Chechnya include Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Mr. Yeltsin's main adviser, Viktor Ilyushin. Speculation mounted over Kozhakov's role when he denounced World Bank proposals to reform Russia's oil export system in a letter last month to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The letter suggested his influence went beyond the Kremlin walls. It prompted Mr. Izvestia to ask "who is running the country — Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Chernomyrdin or general Kozhakov?" The plot thickened last week when Mr. Izvestia said Mr. Kozhakov and other hardliners were trying to consolidate their power by proposing the creation of an elite national guard to operate independently of the army and be loyal only to the president. Many Russians are already worried that the security services, once a major arm of Soviet power, are becoming prominent again. They would regard such a private army with trepidation. Men such as Mr. Kozhakov and Mr. Soskovets are widely thought to have gained the president's ear at the expense of the Presidential Analytical Centre, which normally provides

Redeeming the traffic culture

By John Dales

SINCE it always seems to require a lead from the very top for serious action to be taken about such problems, I am sure that we are all very grateful that His Majesty King Hussein has spoken out concerning the traffic situation in Jordan. But even though the lead has now been given, we are right to ask whether the necessary change will ever take place. As letters and articles in the Jordan Times testify, many fear that the Kingdom's driving culture is almost beyond redemption. Few, however, seem to recognise that there is another, equally large, hurdle to be overcome. It is all too easy to think that the only real problem is actually on the roads; that there are too many vehicles and that they are often being badly driven. In assuming this, the main question we tend to raise concerns whether or not road users will respond to new initiatives in the hoped-for manner. Thus, when we read of the formation of a ministerial committee and of a possible national coordinating body, we do not tend to question the ability of Jordan's traffic authorities to recommend appropriate solutions; nor do we ask ourselves whether those who will be responsible for implementing such solutions are equal to the task. A recent Jordan Times editorial did raise such questions. "Is there an answer? Well, Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh, in his 'View from Academia' (Jordan Times Jan. 19-20), quite rightly identified education, in traffic, as the key to any hope of sustained, long-term improvements to Jordan's traffic and road safety situation. However, he does seem to assume that it is only the great mass of anonymous road users who are in need of such education. The fact is that those who design and implement solutions are themselves often insufficiently trained in traffic engineering matters properly to handle the job with which they are charged. Bad driving, and indeed bad pedestrian practice, is not limited to an easily-defined 'them' (the mass of the public) who need help from a more-or-less road-perfect 'us' (administrators, engineers, police). Simple observation demonstrates that this is so, and it is accurate to state that even traffic police officers fail to abide by the rules they ought to be enforcing. Thus should dawn the realisation that we cannot glibly assume that those whom we ask to bring about the necessary changes (however well-intentioned, and whatever their status) have a firm grasp on what one might call 'best practice'."

Almost all who use the roads, simply because they do so, are prone to regarding themselves as "experts." But the truth is that effective traffic engineering practice is not nearly as instinctive or obvious as we'd like to think. Traffic engineering is an applied science, and often a behavioural one. The problems can be highly complex and the solutions frequently require to be equally sophisticated. For this reason, modern traffic problems (particularly in urban areas) really are not susceptible to treatment by those not trained and experienced in designing and implementing the necessary solutions.

Put plainly, the task calls for properly qualified professionals: and, yes, there are precious few traffic experts in Jordan. This is not surprising, since the concept of a traffic professional per se is a new one in the world at large. It began to be recognised as the scale of traffic problems in certain countries in the 1960s exceeded the ability of conventional techniques to cope with them. In Britain, for example, it is only in the last two decades that those really competent to do so have begun to undertake traffic engineering duties. Previously, the case was much as it is in Jordan today. I ought to stress that this is not a criticism. Merely a fact.

Thus we are in danger of entrusting a very difficult task to those who, through no fault of their own, do not fully understand the nature of traffic problems and therefore the potential solutions. Of course, this assessment is not based simply on the observation that anyone can drive badly, it is supported by a wealth of evidence that is more clear to the trained than the untrained eye. If I might quote from Dr. Majdoubeh's latest article, he says that: "undeniably, some progress has been achieved in some areas. We have more highways, bridges and tunnels now than we had (in 1977). We have more road signs, more traffic lights, more police cars, more parking lots, more sidewalks, less circles, etc. This is all good and we highly appreciate it."

It is good? Should we appreciate it? Dr. Majdoubeh admits he is not an expert on traffic. This is why he is able to give credit where it is not due to those he would call the experts. For the simple fact of having more of this and less of that is not the answer. As Jordan's experience shows, traffic problems do not automatically improve in relation to the number of expensive highway engineering schemes completed: indeed the reverse can be the case (try asking a Briton about "the M25 effect"). New tunnels frequently, again at great expense, simply shift the problem down to the next junction. More traffic lights are limited use as it is often the case in Amman, their control systems are improperly set or if they are over-ridden by over-eager policemen. On the other hand, I could easily name 10 junctions which I use regularly that are in desperate need of being turned into circles!

Many schemes in Jordan have helped matters; but others have not and still others should have been introduced. Thus Dr. Majdoubeh was obliged to follow the above quotation with this statement: "However, the number of accidents is still as high today as it was then, and perhaps even higher." The worst thing that could happen now would be for there to be a burst of enthusiasm followed by general disillusionment as simply-conceived "remedies" fail to produce real change. Already we see that the traffic police have adopted a higher profile and we read that stringent new traffic laws are being pushed through. Such measures should, of course, be parts of any plan to improve the traffic situation; but just parts. They have the same face attraction as, for instance, the building of a tunnel: an obvious demonstration that action is being taken, and relatively easy to conceptualise and therefore to pursue. They may even work, within their inherent limitations. But effective traffic must involve a comprehensive, coordinated, approach, incorporating a much wider range of measures and a long-term view. This requires expert attention.

It all comes to this: If the impetus created by the King's remarks is to lead to genuine, long-lasting, positive, change in Jordan's deteriorating traffic situation it really is imperative that trained and experienced traffic professionals are brought into the process. In addition, and as soon as possible, those officials presently without sufficient training should receive it. Last August, I wrote in these pages of the urgent need to train the nation's traffic police, so as to allow them more effectively to do their jobs. The same applies to the engineers and administrators whose role in ensuring better traffic conditions is even more vital, if less high-profile.

I am not suggesting that Utopia is in sight, for I am more than prepared to admit that traffic professionals, however well-trained or experienced, are fallible. What is more, Jordan's much-bemoaned driving culture will not change overnight. Nevertheless, with a willing administration and the professionals on board, there is a genuine opportunity that Jordan's traffic situation can be improved. Without such expert help, I'm afraid that similar optimism simply cannot be justified.

The writer is a traffic engineer. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

All men are not brothers

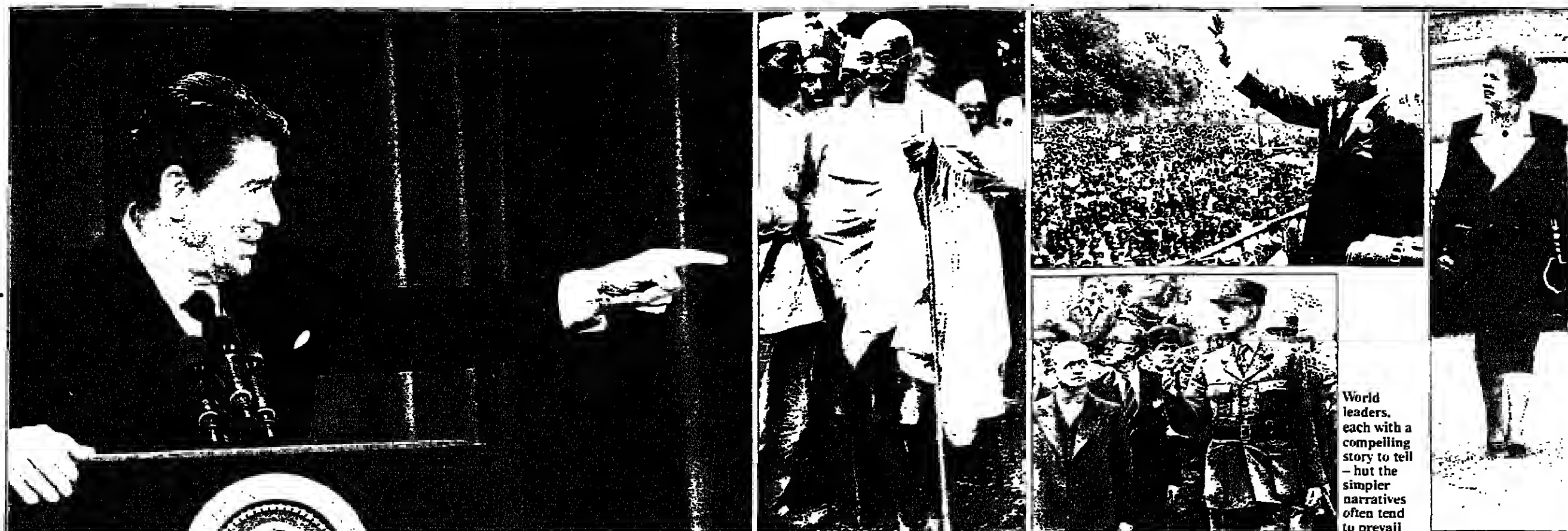
By G.H. Jensen

"ALL MEN are brothers" is the inspirational title of one of China's classical novels, a lengthy tale of how the oppressed peasants, by standing together, defeat the rapacious, villainous landlords. All very well and good. But is that title a true statement. Casting an eye across an international scene at the start of 1995, there are several places where men are not behaving in brotherly fashion towards each other. Rather the opposite, they are killing each other. There is Bosnia where Serbs are killing Muslims with occasional help to both sides from the Croats; there is the slaughter of Tutsis by Hutus in Rwanda which has been going on quietly for decades; and in Turkey, the Turks and the Kurds have been opposing each other for many years, and in Iraq, Kurds are now battling Kurds; in Somalia, clan warfare has reemerged even before the U.N. peacekeepers have withdrawn; and the Afghan Mujahideen are busy wrecking their country, especially its capital Kabul. Can it be that "men" are not "brothers" but that only some men are brothers to some other men. Or, conversely, that

some men are naturally, instinctively, the enemies of other men whom they are bound to hate. It is a tribute to a feeling of "common humanity" that this despairing explanation is instinctively rejected by most people, who seem to want to think well of their fellow men and to clear them of the charge of atavistic hatred. But how else to explain the fact, of which there have been all too many examples in the recent past, that people who have lived side by side for generations as friends and neighbours can suddenly turn against each other? An inquiry into this shows that for all the time that these peoples have been living as friends and neighbours, there was a superior force sitting on top of them and keeping them in order. But as soon as the restraining hand was removed, they were at each other's throats. In the list given above how many of the killings could be due to natural, instinctive hatred? Perhaps these: Serbs against Muslims; the Somali clan warfare; Kurds versus Turks; Sunni versus Shia in Pakistan. It can be deduced that the cause of natural, instinctive hostility is not a difference in race or religion because there is no such situations in Somalia and Karachi. But such differences may keep hostility

alive; nor is hostility due to political differences which are not to be found in Somalia or Afghanistan. But inborn hostility is, at best, only a partial explanation. Also, though religious and racial and political differences do not explain "natural" hostility, they do provide partial explanations for hostility as such. But hostility due to these causes can change, can wax and wane, as seems to be the case at present in Northern Ireland, where decades-old enmity between Protestants and Catholics can diminish when equitable political and economic arrangements are made. And much the same could happen in Karachi if the Shias are given what they would accept as a fair deal. All these various factors — inborn hostility, religious and political differences, economic grievances — can be causes of war but there has to be a more fundamental explanation of how and why war can be possible, because war is a most unnatural activity and brings to individuals involved dangers and difficulties and death. And yet, human beings, in their millions, engage in war with enthusiasm and self-sacrifice and sometimes for years on end. It is even possible to glorify war and violence. No wonder that the great philosopher of his-

tory, A.J. Toynbee, called war one of the "master institutions" of our time along with democracy. The search for this unknown, unspoken factor has produced at least one probing examination. This was "Personal Aggression and War" by George Catlin, published in London in 1939 and almost completely forgotten since then. Dr. Catlin's thesis is that in every human being there is a reservoir of personal aggressiveness produced by the fact that we all renege the restrictions placed on our desire to do exactly what we want (what Freud called "the pleasure principle") by the inevitable restraints of family and society. Without those restraints, life would be an anarchic lawless jungle. With those restraints human beings are frustrated. They found outlets through violence and best of all in the large-scale violence of war on the level of nation or community. Without frustrated personal aggressiveness, war or large-scale violence, would not be possible. But it is individual leaders who find the outlets for that pent-up violence and make use of these outlets; men like Milosevic in Serbia or Aided in Somalia or Hekmatyar in Afghanistan.



World leaders, each with a compelling story to tell — but the simpler narratives often tend to prevail

When leaders set out to conquer the word

From Gandhi to Thatcher, great leaders have the ability to tell a convincing story, argues Howard Gardner

IN TWO WORDS, a wonderfully evocative short story, the Chilean writer Isabel Allende relates the tale of Belisa Crepusculario, a beautiful young woman from a desperately poor background who made a living selling words. She sold memorised verses for five centavos, wrote love letters for nine centavos and, for 12 centavos, invented insults that could be directed towards mortal enemies.

Belisa Crepusculario's life changes dramatically when she is seized by the Colonel. After his men almost kill her, the Colonel explains the reasons for this wanton treatment. "I want to be President," he declares. "To do that I have to talk like a candidate. Can you sell me the words for a speech?" Belisa agrees to create the requested tapestry of words. The illiterate Colonel memorises and delivers the speech; the audience is "dazzled by the clarity of the Colonel's proposals and the poetic lucidity of his arguments"; he wins the election; and, since this is a love story, the two protagonists live happily ever after.

Art anticipates life and, sometimes, even social science. From my perspective as a psychologist, Isabel Allende has touched on the most essential feature of effective leadership: the capacity of a leader to create a story that affects the thoughts, feelings, and/or actions of other individuals. The Colonel may well have good ideas and be an appealing personality but unless he can somehow capture the ideas in a coherent narrative, that makes sense to people and that spurs

them to think and to act differently, his leadership cannot bring about significant change. Without the power that persuades people to behave in a certain way, he is at most a mere manager.

Leadership has been investigated by many scholars, of course, and their conclusions can be presented in alliterative terms. Various scholars have focused on the importance of power (leadership is about the attainment and deployment of power); policy (leadership features the pursuit and implementation of a certain set of policies); the role of the public (leadership must generate a rapport with audience); and personality (leaders have the need to dominate, often to compensate for felt personal deficiencies).

Each of these perspectives has validity but they all neglect a crucial component: Leadership occurs in the human mind — it is essentially a cognitive phenomenon. Leaders either devise their own stories or use stories that already exist in the culture, developing or revising them in some way. If leaders are to be effective, they must embody the story in their own lives. Leaders tell stories on many topics but their most essential story is one that (re)defines the identity of the audience members.

If a leader simply had to enunciate a story to an empty mind, he or she would have an easy assignment. In fact, however, all normal human beings (leaders no less than followers) have minds that are fully stocked with stories, drawn from history, the culture, their immediate family en-

vironment. Any new story, indeed any old story, must compete with the stories (and counter-stories) that are already well-entrenched. It is a singular achievement when leaders succeed in conveying a new story, in having it understood as such, and in thereby redirecting the thoughts and behaviour of their audiences.

Recent British and American history provide vivid examples of leaders who were effective story-tellers. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan told approximately the same stories, with approximately equal success. According to Thatcher's narrative of identity, Britain, a once proud and grand nation, had lost its way. Socialism, the power of the unions, runaway inflation, and timidity in foreign affairs were all symptoms of a philosophy that was irremediably wrong.

Thatcher called for the reembracing of an older story, "our story," the story of a great people, living in a market economy, where hard work and achievement were rewarded, where the government stopped interfering in people's lives, and where, in times of crisis (like the Falklands war), bold steps were taken. Reagan reflected the same themes, featuring many of the same heroes and villains, and when no Falklands war presented itself, he manufactured Grenada.

Even more, though, recent history provides ample evidence of what happens when leaders do not have a good story that they can convey effectively. George Bush and John Major are widely seen as less credible

versions of their charismatic predecessors. Bill Clinton, himself a good story-teller, has far too many stories to tell, and often they are not consistent with one another. Moreover, unlike Thatcher and Reagan, he appears not to embody the stories in his own life. When a new, effective story-teller, like the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, appears on the scene, and refurbishes an old moralistically-tinged story, he readily prevails over his political opponent.

Interestingly, Gingrich appears in many ways not to embody the stories that he tells. For example, he praises family life but comes from a broken home and had an ugly divorce. He calls for term limits and smaller staffs but does not apply these strictures to his own nascent empire. Whether he will soon be seen as a hypocrite, or whether he will be forgiven this lack of embodiment, remains to be seen.

One problem for today's leaders is that, not least because of the ending of the cold war, the unexpected resurgence of nationalism and even tribalism, and rapid developments in technology, the world is more complex and unpredictable than it was a decade ago.

The challenge this poses for leaders has been described vividly by Ross Perot. As a presidential candidate he fully understood what his audiences needed from him: "We owe it to the American people to explain to them in plain language where we are, where we are going, and what we have to do. Then we need to build a consensus to do it." But while

Perot expressed the dilemma, he failed to create an answer that struck a personal chord with listeners. The fate of John Major or Tony Blair may well rest on their respective skills at weaving a compelling tale about the future direction of Britain.

A cognitive approach to leadership provides insight into the similarities and differences between individuals in the creative realms (art and science) and individuals in the political realm (institutional and national leaders). Both groups of individuals exert influence on others and are, therefore, leaders. However, creative leaders operate indirectly by fashioning some kind of symbolic object (a poem, an opera, a philosophical position) that affects future practice in a domain. Political figures lead directly by the stories that they communicate to their followers. Some individuals, like Charles de Gaulle and the anthropologist Margaret Mead, manage to lead both directly and indirectly, but most eventually favour one mode or the other.

Creative leaders spend most of their time working in isolation, with occasional forays into the wider world to note the effects of what they have wrought. Political leaders must spend the bulk of their time in the fray, but if they do not retire to reflect from time to time, they are likely to lose their perspective. One criticism of President Clinton is that he reserves too little time for solitary reflection and therefore is too much at the mercy of the most recent individuals to whom he happens to have spoken. Whether leaders begin

from pre-eminence in an expert domain or from more conventional political backgrounds, in the end they all face a similar problem. Once a leader attempts to address a heterogeneous audience she must assume that she is dealing with an "un-schooled mind." This is not the mind of the expert but embodies much from an individual's pre-school era.

The unschooled mind is impatient with subtlety, ambiguity, paradox, or relativism. Some leaders, and I would include both Reagan and Thatcher in this category, are quite content to present such a simple message: indeed this was the idea behind the well-nick-named "Star War Programme," which was admired by both individuals. (In fairness, their eventual efforts to achieve a rapprochement with Gorbachev's Soviet Union required a more sophisticated narrative.)

Margaret Thatcher was unusually successful in banding the problem of how to communicate effectively both with mass audiences and with experts. She often surprised both friends and opponents by her detailed knowledge, shrewd questioning and her capacity to mobilise information in debate. In more than one field she qualified as an expert.

One of her rare skills was that she was able to separate out her expertise from her political instincts, invoking each when needed, but seldom confusing them with one another. While it might be preferable for a political leader to be able to synthesise expertise with messages of simplicity and

clarity, Thatcher illustrated how these two strands can co-exist productively within the same person.

If a leader wants to educate an unschooled audience, she must be prepared to counter simpler stories that are already entrenched in the mind. This was the formidable task faced by Mahatma Ghandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., when they attempted to persuade their constituents that they could engage in confrontation and even conflict without becoming violent; such leaders can achieve success only if they directly address the formidable "counter-stories" and do so with single-mindedness over a long period of time. Moreover, in a time of crisis, members of the audience prove all too prone to revert to the simplest, unschooled, stories.

To my surprise, I have found during the course of my research that most leaders — except those who became academics — were not particularly good students. They were outstanding in two areas: understanding other people's goals and motivations; and in their ability to express themselves in words — oral expression being more important than written expression. Allende's Colonel knew just what leadership skill he lacked.

When a leader works in an established institution, his power is already acknowledged and he has already inherited a generic story on which to build. Indeed, if the leader does not want to be particularly innovative, he can simply embody his story in his daily actions, as the American

general George Marshall did with marked success. It is instructive to study those leaders who lacked such an organisation. Individuals such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., or the visionary Europeanist Jean Monnet, must invent their story almost from scratch, find an audience for it, adjust versions that are not effective and, if they want to achieve longer-term effects, create an institution with some longevity.

Perhaps the highest issue for today's leaders, though, is how to cope with the power of the unschooled mind. How can leaders persuade such audiences, living in uncertain and unpredictable times, to abandon unschooled thinking and to become anchored at a more sophisticated level of analysis? Unless leaders recognise the power of the simple stories which populate the minds of most people — and that are, alas, reinforced by the "soundbite" media — it is more than likely that the simple stories will prevail. The elaboration and "selling" of a more complex story is essentially an educational task, and one that necessarily must take place over a considerable period of time. This is a sobering conclusion for those of us who seek effective leadership in a rapidly changing world.

The author is Research Professor of Education at Harvard University. His books include *Frames of Mind* and *The Unschooled Mind*. His book on leadership, *Leading Minds*, will be published in the summer. This article is reprinted from *The Independent*.

King visits liberated areas

(Continued from page 1)

march towards a prosperous future."

"We are confident of our steps," said the King. "We should keep our head high, without bowing to anyone except God Almighty, and march with determination and resolve towards making Jordan a model for others."

"This is our land, returned to us by the peace treaty," said the King, adding that "this is the first time an Arab land is returned to its owners

without having it being policed by international observers."

The King was accompanied on the visit to the liberated areas by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafez Mirai, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Muhammad, the King's military secretary, and senior Armed Forces officers, who briefed His Majesty on the situation in the area following the Israeli withdrawal.

Kabariti returns after Gulf visit

(Continued from page 1)

He was referring to a call by UAE President Sheikh Zayed to mend Arab fences.

Mr. Kabariti met with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on Monday and conveyed to him the greetings of King Hussein.

He also met with UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed and discussed with him the latest Arab and international developments as well as bilateral relations.

Mr. Kabariti reiterated Jordan's support for the UAE's right to regain sovereignty over its three islands, which are occupied by Iran, through peaceful

means, including referring the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

The two ministers discussed means to end Arab rifts and improve relations between Arab countries, especially at the current stage which the two described as critical and full of risks.

Mr. Kabariti called on the UAE to play an active role in moves to mend Arab fences in view of the good relations it enjoys with Arab countries. The two sides underlined the importance of Arab meetings aiming at countering challenges and highlighting the importance of holding a meeting between King Hussein and Sheikh Zayed at the current stage.

Knesset questions 'legality'

(Continued from page 1)

after the Middle East war. The intervention of Mr. Weiss explained the cur behaviour of senior Israeli officers at a brief ceremony on the border north of the Red Sea.

Israeli General Yosef Michlab spent barely a minute at the scene for a quick handshake over a barbed wire fence before jumping back in his jeep and speeding off.

"It was on the prime minister's orders that there was no ceremony because the Knesset has not voted on the second and third readings," a spokesman for Yitzhak Rabin said. "Yesterday was just a start."

The Israelis' formality also

contrasted with the gala signing of the peace treaty last October attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton and reported on live television worldwide.

In Israel's parliament, opposition legislators accused the government of skirting the law by withdrawing without explicit legislative approval.

"Why did the government rush into carrying out an action which is against the spirit of the law?" asked opposition Likud Party's Michael Eitan.

In the past, officials have said seeking parliament approval was an option but not a legal requirement.

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Tuesday welcomed the beginning

of Israel's withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories.

"The secretary-general considers it a positive step toward the achievement of the long-awaited peace in the region," said the statement released by the organisation's headquarters in Jeddah.

The statement quoted OIC head Hamid Al Ghabid, of Niger, as saying that peace must include Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the occupied Lebanese territories and all occupied Palestinian lands including East Jerusalem.

The organisation, which is the umbrella for the world's one billion Muslims, said peace in the region must also include the "inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people," including the right to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Zeroual vows war on bombers

(Continued from page 12)

children in the centre of Algiers," said foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque.

"This barbarous and indiscriminate act marks a new escalation in violence. Innocent people are suffering as a result of this explosion. France sends its condolences to the families of the victims and to all the Algerian people," he said.

"We call again for a dialogue between all of those who condemn terrorism and violence to find a peaceful

solution to the crisis," he added.

In Madrid, the Spanish government denounced what it called "a bloody terrorist attack."

The foreign ministry said: "In the face of such criminal acts, the government reiterates its categorical condemnation of acts of violence (designed) to prevent a peaceful solution to the problems which the country is living through."

Kuwait condemned the "terrorist crime" and said it hoped to see peace and security restored to Algeria, the

official news agency KUNA reported Tuesday.

Miguel Angel Maninez, president of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly, said the attack "inspired the assembly with horror."

"The Council of Europe cannot remain silent on such acts which are opposed to the principles we defend," he told parliamentarians from 33 countries at the winter session of the pan-European body.

In Paris, Federico Mayor, director-general of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, also condemned the bombing.

Settlers want to replace army

(Continued from page 1)

imposed after the Jan. 22 bombing, would only be lifted if Mr. Arafat made a visible effort to rein in the militants. The closure keeps tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel.

"We don't expect miracles. If they take all possible steps, then the closure will be lifted," Mr. Peres told high school students.

Israel's deputy defence minister, Mordechai Gur, warned over the weekend that if the Palestinians did not go after the militants and foil future attacks, Israel would not pull out of West Bank towns as required under the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord.

Government spokesman Uri Dromi said Tuesday that the autonomy agreement required Mr. Arafat to extradite Palestinians suspected in the slayings of Israelis.

Mr. Dromi said Israel formally asked for the extradition of five suspects, and also gave the Palestinians names of six additional militants whom Israel would like to question.

Ziad Atrash, the top Palestinian official in the Israel-PLO liaison committee that deals with such issues, refused comment Tuesday on the Israeli request.

Palestinian police would not say whether any of the five suspects were in custody. In Lisbon, the head of the PLO's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said the talks on extending Palestinian autonomy were at a "complete impasse."

He called for a stronger commitment from international mediators to save the talks from failure and told a press conference in the Portuguese capital that peace would only be achieved when

Israeli troops had left all Palestinian soil.

He also charged Mr. Rabin with being of "bad faith," saying that the continued construction of settlements in the West Bank showed the Palestinians could not trust Israel.

"As long as they occupy our territory we have the right to fight for freedom... we have the right to resist, for each violent action has a response," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi was visiting Portugal at the invitation of Foreign Minister Durao Barroso to discuss strengthening ties.

Asked if he believed Israel was to blame for Palestinian attacks like the January 22 bombing Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters: "100 per cent."

Mr. Kaddoumi, a critic of the autonomy accord, did not condemn the attack outright, but said he opposed killing innocent civilians in "military combat."

Jews barred from massacre site

(Continued from page 1)

prayers on Tuesday. A woman worshipper said: "People are staying away in fear of what happened here last year."

Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein carried out the early morning massacre last year, firing on kneeling worshippers before being beaten to death by survivors. An Israeli inquiry found Goldstein, who arrived several years ago from the United States, acted alone.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday launched Ramadan in the Palestinian territories.

"For the first time in the history of the Palestinian nation, we announce to the Arab and Islamic world... that the new moon has been observed from Al Aqsa mosque which is administered by the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Arafat declared.

Jordan, Syria, Lebanon,

Egypt and Libya announced that the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting would start on Wednesday.

But for Arabian peninsula countries — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Yemen — Ramadan began Tuesday with the traditional sighting of the new crescent.

The difference caused confusion in Jerusalem's Old City where the faithful admit they were uncertain when the feast was to start.

Population growth, rising unemployment will put more strains on Arab countries

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab states will face further economic strains in coming years due to rising unemployment and a population growth rate higher than the world average, said a report by four Arab institutions.

The 1994 report on Arab economies, obtained by Reuters Monday, estimated that three million people would be seeking to enter the Arab labour market each year between 1996 and 2000.

"This increase will add to the burden of Arab economies already suffering from levels of unemployment in excess of 10 per cent of the labour force," it said.

The report, based on figures for the years up to 1993, was compiled by the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

It said there were 240 million Arabs in 1993, adding that the population grew at a yearly rate of 2.7 per cent from 1990 to 1993 compared to 1.9 per cent for developing states as a whole and 0.6 per cent for industrialised ones.

This fast rate of growth occurred despite efforts by some Arab states to promote family planning. It reflected falling death rates and fertility rates almost double those of developed countries as a whole.

The report said life expectancy, access to healthcare and education had improved markedly in oil-exporting Gulf states, Algeria, Iraq and Libya in recent years.

But in poorer Arab countries "the social development indicators are characterised by a decline or negligible change."

The report covers all 22 Arab League members including impoverished or war-torn states like Yemen, Somalia and Mauritania.

Life expectancy in some Arab Gulf states is around the industrialised world's average of about 75 years but it falls as low as 51 in Yemen and 46 in Somalia.

Women formed 19 per cent of the formal Arab labour force in 1990-92, the report said.

"Despite a rapid rise, this is much less than the proportion of working women in industrialised and developing countries which are 43 per cent and 35 per cent respectively," the report noted.

It said the number of children enrolled in primary schools was still less than 75 per cent, but this was expected to rise to 83 per cent by the year 2000.

Literacy programmes had succeeded in cutting the numbers of people who cannot read or write to just over 25 per cent of the total population in 1992 compared to 73 per cent in 1970.

Turkey says \$2b lost on shut Iraqi pipeline

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish official said Tuesday the country had lost \$2 billion from an Iraqi oil pipeline shut down since 1990 to comply with a U.N. trade embargo against Baghdad after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The official from the state pipeline firm Botas said despite losses the company had regularly been paying its loans totalling \$275.8 million and borrowed from foreign and domestic lenders in 1986 to build the second phase of the twin pipeline.

"We will pay the last tranche of \$605,000 of our total debt on March 7," she told Reuters.

The company had received \$170.8 million from Italy, \$92 million from Chemical Bank and \$13 million from local Ziraat Bank. She did not say where the final payment would be made to.

The first of the 986-kilometre twin pipeline, which carried Iraqi crude oil to Turkey's Mediterranean terminal, was built in 1974 and the second one became operational in 1987.

She said Botas did not benefit from a \$3.5-billion compensation fund, contributed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United States and United Arab Emirates after the Gulf war, as the money was allocated for Turkey's defence expenses.

"Botas has been endeavouring to get along by its own means since the Gulf war," she said.

Russian government reassure investors about privatisation

MOSCOW (R) — The new acting head of Russia's State Property Committee, reassuring shareholders about the future of their investments, has promised to end all talk of nationalising newly privatised firms.

Piotr Mostovoi told Reuters Monday evening that his predecessor, Vladimir Polevanov, had given "a wrong presentation" of Russia's attitude to foreign investors.

"We have to emphasise that our relations with foreign investors remain on the same basis as they were before Polevanov," he said.

"The hopes of some political activists and interested parties that there will be nationalisation are completely without foundation."

Investors in Russia's tiny securities markets took fright earlier this month after Mr. Polevanov, previously a local official in the Russian Far East, suggested national interests would be best served by moving firms in some sectors back to state hands.

Share prices fell as foreign investors stayed away from the market. President Boris Yeltsin, who dragged Mr. Polevanov into the limelight just two months ago, pushed him out again, bringing in Mostovoi to take his place.

Mr. Mostovoi, formerly a deputy for reform chief Anatoly Chubais, said nationalisation was not possible, if only because Russia had no money in the budget to buy back shares from private investors. Foreign investment remained important.

"We think the participation of foreign investors in Russia is a factor in the integration of Russia in the world community and... one which promotes a positive economic process, both in our country and in countries where capital comes from," he said.

Russia started transferring state-owned property to private hands in 1992, first selling shares in companies for special privatisation vouchers and then selling them for cash.

Officials say 60 per cent of gross domestic product — a broad measurement of goods and services in an economy — is now generated from the private sector.

The figures include only the official economy — adding the poorly monitored black economy would further increase the share.

Mr. Mostovoi said Russia's current priorities in the field of privatisation included the creation of a favourable investment climate which would include financial stabilisation and clear rules on tax and investment policies.

Russia also needed to clarify the state's role in the privatisation process and use the sell-off to raise cash for the badly-strapped federal budget, he said.

The budget, passed on its second reading last week

Factory workers are highest paid in Germany — U.S. report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pay of factory workers multiplied fast in Asia over the last two decades, with Japanese wages surging ahead of U.S. earnings but other Asian countries still lagging behind, according to a new U.S. Labour Department report.

The average Japanese worker earned the equivalent of \$3 an hour in 1975. By 1993, the latest year for which figures are available, that had risen to \$19.01 an hour. It was a new high for Japan and well above the U.S. figure for the year: \$16.73 an hour.

The figures include benefits paid on behalf of workers by employers.

In U.S. dollars, wages in Japan trailed U.S. wages until 1992, when they moved a few cents an hour ahead. U.S. workers' average hourly wages gained only 58 cents in 1993, while Japanese wages jumped ahead by \$2.73.

Japanese earnings have increased sixfold since 1975, while U.S. wages rose just over two and a half times in the same period.

Many workers in Western Europe earned more than those of either Japan or the United States in 1993: \$25.71 an hour in Germany, \$22.63 in Switzerland, \$21.31 in Belgium and \$20.27 in Austria.

The German figure applies only to the western part of

the country.

"Average monthly earnings... in manufacturing in the former East Germany were 60 per cent of earnings in the former West Germany in October 1993," the bureau said.

Some of the increase in Japan reflects the declining value of the U.S. dollar against Japanese yen, and the effect of Japan's higher wages is offset by generally higher prices for consumer goods.

"Prices of goods and services vary greatly among countries," the Bureau of Labour Statistics noted in its report. So the figures do not reflect standards of living or what workers can actually buy with their pay.

The World Bank calculates that when the cost of living is taken into account, the average earnings of all Japanese came to only \$21,090 in 1993 compared with \$24,750 for the average American.

But the trend is improving for Japan. Since 1978, prices paid by consumers have been rising more slowly than in the United States and many other countries, the Labour Department reported.

Last year Japanese prices rose about one per cent, while U.S. prices were rising nearly three times as fast.

Inflation was almost as low in Switzerland as in Japan, but prices elsewhere in West-

ern Europe rose at close to the U.S. rate.

Newly industrialising countries — the "tigers" of East Asia — showed considerable gains in wages, but from a low base.

The average South Korean worker earned only 32 U.S. cents an hour in 1975, and was getting \$5.33 in 1993. In purchasing power, the average South Korean was still doing less than half as well as the Japanese — \$9.810 for the year.

Some countries in other parts of the world have done much less well: In Sri Lanka, for example, the average earnings of a worker was 28 U.S. cents an hour in 1975. In 1993 it had risen to only 42 cents. In Mexico the rise was from \$1.47 to \$2.59 and in Portugal from \$1.58 to \$4.60.

The Labour Department pointed out that its figures are designed to show the comparative cost to an employer of hiring a worker, so they include costs not necessarily paid directly to the worker, such as the employer's share of health insurance.

In France only a little more than \$7 out of every \$10 a worker earns is included in the pay packet. In Mexico, where employers help pay for fewer social services, the worker receives about \$9 out of every \$10.

Kuwait scraps deposit rate minimum limits

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Monday it had decided to abolish maximum limits on bank fees and commissions and minimum rates for deposits and savings accounts to help liberalise the economy and improve banking competition.

Central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah, said the changes would give banks more flexibility to respond to market forces, improve competition between banks and make them more dynamic.

He added in a statement carried on the official Kuwait News Agency he would not permit "any monopoly or domination by banks over rates or fees and be wanted rates and fees clearly declared so that bank clients were kept fully informed."

The steps take formal effect upon publication in the next government gazette, due out on Feb. 5.

Commercial deposit and lending rates are priced against the discount rate — currently at seven per cent — according to an interest rate framework established in April 1993.

At present, the minimum rate is seven per cent for local bank deposits of over 30 days. The minimum rate for deposits of 30 days or less is

left for the market to decide. The present minimum interest on savings accounts is 3.75 per cent.

Also, at present banks may charge their clients an annual commitment fee of 0.5 per cent for overdrafts.

"The decision will have a positive impact on banking operations and services extended to clients, improve the banks' performance and boost their vital role in stimulating economic activity and economic growth," Sheikh Salem said.

Maximum fees and commissions could now be set according to supply and demand and this would "ensure a balance between the price of banking services and their cost in a way that will encourage banks to increase the efficiency of their services."

Sheikh Salem said the cancellation of fee maximums would also lead to creation of new banking products and provision of better banking services at an appropriate cost.

On the cancellation of deposit rate minimums, he said that in view of the opening of deposit rates "to the influence of supply and demand in the market, the banks will be keen to preserve the base of their clients' deposits and to expand it."

Israeli foreign currency debt rated BBB plus

LONDON (AFP) — The U.S. financial rating agency Standard and Poor's Corp. (S and P) Tuesday confirmed its BBB plus rating on Israel's long-term foreign currency debt, saying the outlook remained stable.

"The rating balances the substantial strengthening of Israel's geopolitical position, deepening micro-economic reforms, and improved growth prospects with a high public debt burden, estimated at 121 per cent of GDP in 1995. This debt burden likely will constrain fiscal and balance of payments flexibility over the medium term," S and P said.

"The 1993 agreement with the PLO, and the subsequent treaty with Jordan in October 1994, could pave the way for an Israeli-Syrian agreement, which remains vital for a lasting peace settlement. Deep divisions among Israelis, Palestinians and Syrians over the peace process make it vulnerable to important setbacks, though not in a manner likely to seriously jeopardise Israel's security," S and P added.

Alpine forum urges new global economic architecture

DAVOS, Switzerland (AFP) — The pressing need for a new global architecture for world trade has emerged as the key theme of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) talkfest in Davos, which ended Tuesday.

Speaker after speaker at the meeting of the cream of the world's politicians and business leaders has sought to tackle the problem how to regulate the world's rapidly evolving trading patterns.

From U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to World Trade Organisation head Peter Sutherland to former European Commission president Jacques Delors, all have been at one: The old structures such as the IMF and the G-7 were not enough.

"Over 15 years of attending G-7 meetings I must say that I was always struck that they never treated problems globally, but just one at a time," Mr. Delors told a press conference Monday, summing up the thought of many of the 1,500 world leaders in this Swiss ski resort since last Thursday.

"I must be frank and say they did not come up with many positive conclusions. I saw few concrete decisions," he said.

The theme of the six-day annual Davos meeting was in fact struck at the outset in a keynote speech by Dr. Ghali launching the star-studded event.

The U.N. chief put the accent on the social need for a new global economic structure, saying business leaders themselves should take part

in a process of building a new global structure capable of supporting democratic reform in emerging economic nations.

He said they should not allow the "law of profits" to threaten global stability, but rather help to cement solidarity between rich and poor. "As such it must be more closely associated with international decisions."

"At the same time it must agree to include in its economic strategies considerations of the general interest and collective well-being," he added.

Over the weekend the principle was mullied over in "brainstorming sessions as diverse as investment in the emerging superpower China to a debate entitled 'Political Islam'."

Former GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) chief Sutherland took the theme up on Sunday night in a speech called "Key issues in the global economy," when he called for a new framework to be set up "at the highest political level" to coordinate coherent global economic strategy.

"The most immediate specific need is for revised structures for coordination on international economic issues at the highest political level," he said.

Mr. Sutherland said lack of coordination had "bedevilled" international efforts over Russia, as well as seriously affecting how the international community deals with sub-Saharan Africa and the recent Mexican crisis.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There may be some tensions arising in the morning owing to some situations you had not expected. Study it minutely and settle it wisely.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) During the morning you realise that you have not come through with a promise to others as they had been expecting and it's up to you to make amends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take care that an argument between a higher up and an associate this morning does not lower your prestige. However, later on, all can go smoothly if you play it cool.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) While you want to dash about here and there this morning, it is important that you stick to tasks that have to be done.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to improve your appearance during the morning as well as get creative ideas perfected. Later, setting up appointments for recreation so that you have an ideally good time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may find it difficult to get surroundings in order until after lunch. But then all is easy. You can also do much to please close ties starting an up trend in your business activity.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You should drive carefully this morning and avoid arguing with associates. Be sure you shop, study, keep appointments and do everything that was planned in the afternoon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take care you are not extravagant this morning or invest unwisely beyond your ability to pay. The remainder of the day and evening becomes unusually fine for increasing your abundance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Because you feel restless is no reason to make radical changes this morning. However, by adopting a new attitude later in the day, you find that you can make excellent progress.

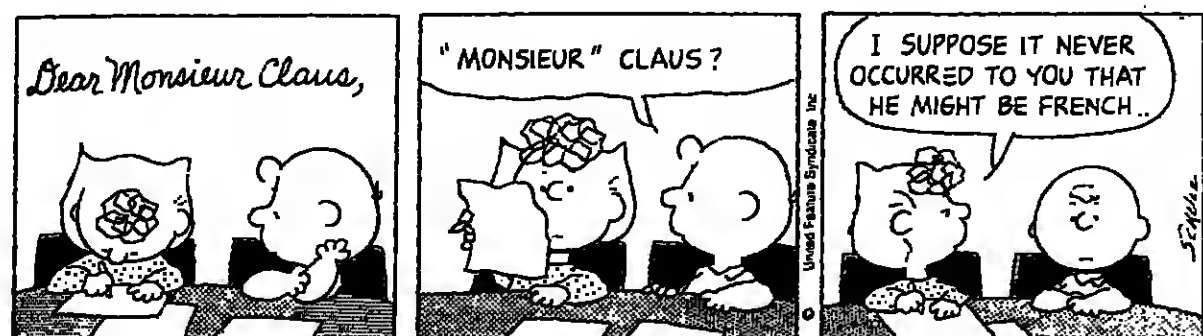
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) See that you don't permit that private worry to keep you from getting out early and accomplishing all that you had planned. Evening: Good for relaxation and being with one you love.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may be quite disappointed if you look to a friend for some favour this morning. Improve your health and appearance instead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Do not act foolish this morning or you lose out both in credit affairs and in manners of prestige which could damage your desire for success.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

Peanuts



Andy Capp



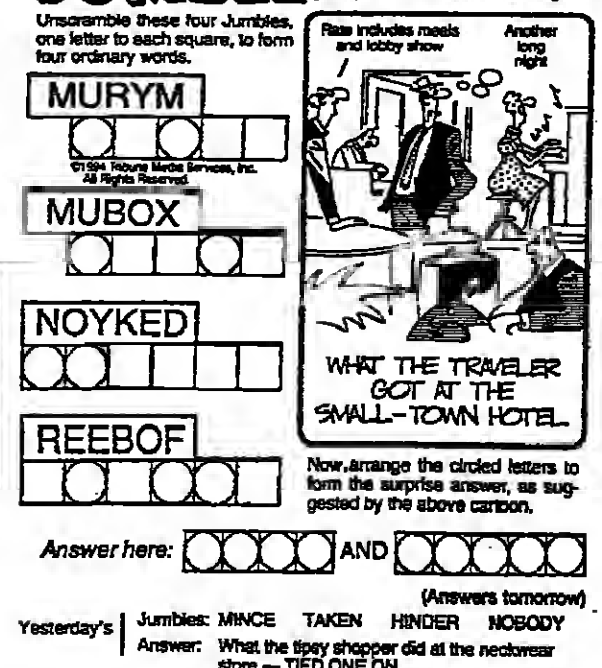
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



next
killed

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1995

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1995 11

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Date beats American Fendick

TOKYO (AP) — Fifth-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan rallied from one set down to beat American Patty Fendick Tuesday in first-round singles action at the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament. Date, No. 10 in the world, was erratic in the first set, hitting her forehands either long or wide. But she recovered for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory in an hour and 50 minutes over Fendick, 56th in the world. In other first-round matches, eighth-seeded Iva Majoli of Croatia ousted American Pam Shriver 6-4, 6-0 and Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia defeated American Shaun Stafford 6-1, 6-1 in just 50 minutes.

United give Cantona ultimatum

MANCHESTER (APF) — Eric Cantona has been told that he will be sacked by Manchester United if he is involved in any more serious trouble following his spectacular brawl with a Crystal Palace fan last week. The warning came from United chairman Martin Edwards, who said: "If Eric was to repeat the sort of behaviour we saw at Selhurst Park, we would have to dispense with his services. It doesn't need a Brain of Britain to work that out. If he perpetrated an offence of similar gravity the Football Association would take steps to remove him from the game." Cantona, who has flown to France to avoid the attentions of the media, has been suspended for the rest of the season and fined two weeks' wages by the club.

Mazinho heads home

MUNICH (APF) — Brazilian forward Mazinho left Bayern Munich for good here on Monday after he was sold to Flamengo for 1 million deutsch marks (\$660,000). Mazinho, 29 on Monday, had a spell in Brazil with Flamengo last season. He returned to German champions Bayern at the start of the current campaign but only started three matches. The Brazilian joined the Bundesliga club in 1991 for 3.6 million marks (\$2.4 million) and scored 11 goals in 49 matches.

Gunnell confident of lowering record

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Briton Sally Gunnell said on Monday she was confident of beating her own 400-metre world record at the world championships in Gothenburg, Sweden in August. Gunnell, the world Olympic, European and Commonwealth champion, said in an interview she was intent on keeping all her titles. "I'll be going out this year looking to retain all my titles and I very much believe I can break the world record again. I think that's what's keeping me motivated, keeping me going. I realise I can knock quite a bit off that — and there's no better place to do it than in Gothenburg."

Ian Wright receives four-match ban

LONDON (AP) — Arsenal striker Ian Wright was suspended for four matches and fined 1,000 pounds (\$1,500) Monday for a series of disciplinary violations this season. The punishment was imposed by the Football Association after Wright accumulated a total of 41 disciplinary points while being booked 12 times in 28 games. Wright will miss Saturday's Premier League game at Sheffield Wednesday, followed by matches against Leicester, Manchester United and Crystal Palace. He will be eligible, however, for Wednesday night's European Super Cup match against AC Milan and England's game against Ireland on Feb. 15.

Storm hits fleet leaders in BOC race

SYDNEY (APF) — A vicious storm on Tuesday caused havoc among the fleet leaders in the third leg of the BOC round-the-world race. Class two leader David Adams aboard True Blue and lying seventh overall said the winds hit 60 knots and "just about wiped me out." "The headsail tore and the furler got caught and tried to rip the mast out. But all is okay now," Adams said. Nigel Rowe of Britain in Sky Catcher reported to race officials here that his mainsail had torn horizontally from luff to leech and that he was making for the southern New South Wales port of Ulladulla to assess the damage. Defending BOC champion Christophe Auguin of France in the Class-1 yacht Sceta Calabron led the fleet by 24 miles with Jean-Luc Van den Heede in Vendee Enterprises in second place, race officials said.

Plans revealed for 1996 Olympic coins

ATLANTA (AP) — Nationsbank and the U.S. Mint have signed a \$1.77 million minimum purchase agreement for the bank to sell United States Olympic coins for the Atlanta Games through its banks. Nationsbank, the country's fourth-largest bank holding company, will sell the mint's 1995-96 Olympic coins in 39 Georgia banks and will place orders for mail and phone orders in 1,760 others, starting March 6. A corporate sponsor of the 1996 Games, Nationsbank has banking facilities in nine states and the district of Columbia.

McLaren poised to confirm Mansell signing

LONDON (R) — Former world champion Nigel Mansell appeared poised to clinch a deal to drive for McLaren on this year's Formula One Grand Prix circuit. Sources close to the team said the 41-year-old Briton had reached agreement with McLaren boss Ron Dennis for a one-year contract. Neither Mansell nor the team would make any official comment but the sources said an announcement was due to be made in London on Wednesday or Thursday. It had been reported Mansell was asking a fee of about one million dollars per race, but the sources said he had accepted less than half that figure to secure the seat.

Barrett joins Everton after all

LIVERPOOL (APF) — Everton have completed the 1.7 million pound signing of Aston Villa defender Earl Barrett. The move, which stalled two weeks ago when the former Oldham Star failed to agree terms with the Merseysiders, was finalised after Barrett changed his mind over the deal.

49ers get heroes' welcome

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

With fans craning their necks from office building windows and others climbing trees for a better view, a jubilant crowd of some 300,000 Monday welcomed home the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers.

"We are No. 1 in the world, baby!" bellowed 49ers tackle Steve Wallace.

Wallace spoke through a microphone borrowed from a television crew during the victory parade through downtown San Francisco to hail the team's record fifth Super Bowl title.

The well-behaved crowd contrasted with Sunday night's booze-fueled outburst, which ended in 183 arrests, most for minor alcohol-related offenses. Two men received minor gunshot wounds and one girl was stabbed.

In 1990, when San Francisco last won the Super Bowl, at least 14 people were treated for injuries related to the postgame celebration. Seven were stabbed, four were shot and three were in traffic accidents.

Acting California Gov. Gray Davis declared Monday "49ers Day" statewide. Davis, the state's lieutenant governor, is filling in while Gov. Pete Wilson is out of the state.

Davis presented the official proclamation to owner Edward DeBartolo Jr. before the start of the parade.

Fans strained for a glimpse of quarterback Steve Young, wide receiver Jerry Rice and the rest of the players, who arrived just hours earlier from Miami.

Spectators stood at least 10

List of Super Bowl winners

1967: Green Bay Packers 35, Kansas City Chiefs 10
1968: Green Bay Packers 33, Oakland Raiders 14
1969: New York Jets 16, Baltimore Colts 7
1970: Kansas City Chiefs 23, Minnesota Vikings 7
1971: Baltimore Colts 16, Dallas Cowboys 13
1972: Dallas Cowboys 24, Miami Dolphins 3
1973: Miami Dolphins 14, Washington Redskins 7
1974: Miami Dolphins 24, Minnesota Vikings 6
1975: Pittsburgh Steelers 16, Minnesota Vikings 6
1976: Pittsburgh Steelers 21, Dallas Cowboys 17
1977: Oakland Raiders 32, Minnesota Vikings 14
1978: Dallas Cowboys 27, Denver Broncos 10
1979: Pittsburgh Steelers 35, Dallas Cowboys 31
1980: Pittsburgh Steelers 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981: Oakland Raiders 27, Philadelphia Eagles 10
1982: San Francisco 49ers 26, Cincinnati Bengals 21
1983: Washington Redskins 27, Miami Dolphins 17
1984: Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington Redskins 9
1985: San Francisco 49ers 38, Miami Dolphins 16
1986: Chicago Bears 46, New England Patriots 10
1987: New York Giants 39, Denver Broncos 20
1988: Washington Redskins 42, Denver Broncos 10
1989: San Francisco 49ers 20, Cincinnati Bengals 16
1990: San Francisco 49ers 55, Denver Broncos 10
1991: New York Giants 20, Buffalo Bills 19
1992: Washington Redskins 37, Buffalo Bills 24
1993: Dallas Cowboys 52, Buffalo Bills 17
1994: Dallas Cowboys 30, Buffalo Bills 13
1995: San Francisco 49ers 49, San Diego Chargers 26.

deep in a light drizzle on the parade route along Market Street in the heart of San Francisco. Hundreds of red and gold balloons fashioned into arcs were positioned over the street every block or so.

In the first car, DeBartolo held aloft the gleaming silver Super Bowl trophy. He was joined in the convertible by 49ers coach George Seifert and San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan.

Deion Sanders, in a black baseball cap worn slightly askew and sunglasses, drew shrieks from delighted fans. As Rice rode by, the crowd chanted "Jerry Jerry Jerry."

The 49ers' 49-26 blowout of the San Diego Chargers on Sunday settled the only real question left for 49ers fans after beating Dallas in the NFC Championship game — is this the best team in the NFL, or is it the best team in the history of the NFL?

Rosa Mora had the answer as she waved a 49ers flag over police barriers. "It's the best team in history — definitely," she said.

Loyal fans lift Charger morale

In San Diego tens of thousands of fans turned out to console the defeated San Diego Chargers on Monday



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young (right) scrambles away from San Diego Chargers defender Chris Mims and prepares to throw the football during the second half of Super Bowl XXIX in Miami. Young threw for a record six touchdowns during the game. The 49ers beat the Chargers 49-26 (APF photo).

when they limped home from Miami and a 49-26 Super Bowl drubbing by the San Francisco 49ers.

"It's a nice welcome, after we did a not-so-good job," said tight end Duane Young with a smile that was almost a wince. "It hurts to lose like that. No one wants to lose like that. It hurts your pride. But this will help."

Despite the bright, southern California sunshine, many of the players did not look in the mood for a parade.

Quarterback Stan Humphries said he was "just tired, that's all," but he patiently signed autographs and mustered a smile for fans lining the parade route.

Lloyd Breese, his wife Dottie and their adult daughter Eva Lilly, all came out to salute the team they have

cheered all year.

"After all, they did good just to get there this year," Breese said. "Next year will be easier."

The good will was almost too much for Chargers general manager Bobby Beathard.

"These are the best fans ever," he said. "But next time we have to win — give them something to cheer about."

S.F. bask in glory, but field questions on next season

MIAMI (AP) — Super Bowl winners rarely get a chance to savor victory.

So Steve Young and George Seifert, whose San Francisco 49ers put on a dazzling offensive show Sunday, spent Monday playing defense.

They responded to questions such as:

What will they do if offensive and defensive coordinators Mike Shanahan and Ray Rhodes leave for head-coaching jobs?

What will they do if Ricky Watters and Deion Sanders sign lucrative free-agent contracts with someone else, or if Jerry Rice should actually decide to retire?

How will they avoid the inevitable post-victory letdown?

Some postmortem. They just went through a pressure-filled season that ended in the only way acceptable to them — with a Super Bowl victory. As Carmen Policy, the team's president, said a couple of weeks ago of owner Eddie DeBartolo's philosophy:

"If you win, it's hugs and kisses and champagne. If you lose, it's death."

Well, it wasn't death.

But if the Niners hadn't beaten the San Diego Chargers on Sunday by the NFC team's now traditional 23-point margin, who knows

what the volatile and emotional DeBartolo might have done?

He might have kicked Seifert upstairs, plucked Shanahan off the plane to Denver and made him the head coach. He might have traded with Kansas City for a quarterback named Joe something; he might have...

Instead, Young and Seifert, weary from the all-night celebration, basked in the glory for a minute or two.

Then they were asked less about the past than the future, or about the place in history of a franchise whose five victories in the past 14 years give them the most

Suor Bowls in history.

Figure Skating

Ukrainian men ready to challenge

DORTMUND (R) —

Viacheslav Zagorodniuk and Dmitri Dzitrenko give Ukraine a powerful double shot at the men's gold medal in the European Figure Skating Championships this week.

This may be the year when Zagorodniuk, finally, fulfills the potential he first showed six years ago when he placed sixth in his championship debut as a 16-year-old.

Dmitrenko, meanwhile, seeks to approach the success he enjoyed two years ago when he surprisingly captured the European title at this first attempt, only to collapse to 12th place in the subsequent World Championships.

The two Ukrainians went through impressive practice routines on Tuesday for the start of their event, the short programme, on Wednesday. The title will be decided on Thursday.

Zagorodniuk, a magnificent jumper, looked strong and superbly prepared. He is not discounting the

challengers from his own country, from Russia in the shape of Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov and from France in the mercurial world silver medalist, Philippe Candeloro.

Zagorodniuk was second behind his compatriot, reinstated professional Viktor Petrenko, a year ago but with Petrenko the only Ukrainian permitted to go on to the Olympics. Zagorodniuk had to cool his heels for the World Championships in Tokyo, where he was third.

"That gave me a lot of confidence," he said. Dmitrenko's situation was even worse, though some making through his own making.

Sixth a year ago, he missed out on the Olympics and the worlds, his own 12th place finish at the worlds a year earlier allowing Ukraine just one entry in Tokyo.

"I had a problem last year, but that's life," Dmitrenko said. "Now it is okay and thanks to Viacheslav's second place last year, I am back."

Two years ago Dmitrenko

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ8
♥QJ765
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—We have a sneaky suspicion most of our readers chose to rebid one no trump, despite the fact the "stoppers" in the black suits leave much to be desired. However, we don't like supporting such good support for partner's suit, so our choice is two hearts, even though we have only three-card support.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ872
♥AQ85
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 2♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With a hand that reveals to 15 points, it might seem that four spades is the obvious bid. However, your "good" hand includes five losers and no body. Rather than bounce right into game, we prefer a

try in one of the red suits. We would select three diamonds, leaving room for a counter try of three hearts if partner also has doubt.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQJ
♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1♣ Pass 2♥ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—This is close. Your queen of diamonds must be upgraded, so we feel your hand is worth further action. The only game try that has merit is an invitational re-bid to three hearts. That confirms an adequate trump fit and asks partner to bid on only with solid opening-bid values.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ
♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 2♥ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—With a balanced hand and both majors well stopped, there's no

reason why you should suggest anything other than a no-trump contract. Bid two no trump.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQJ
♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ

What is your opening bid?
A.—In the old days, there was a structure on opening one no trump unless you held at least Qx in your short suit. However, experience has shown that, if you do not reveal the salient features of this hand immediately, you face impossible rebid problems. We agree—bid one no trump.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ10
♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1NT Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—It's tempting to rebid some number of spades, especially with 150 honors, but if partner has a club fit, you could be going down in two spades when a game in clubs is on. Bid two clubs and see what develops.

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Zeroual vows to wipe out bombers

ALGIERS (Agencies) — President Liamme Zeroual on Tuesday visited Algerians in hospital, wounded by a car bomb the previous day, and vowed to "exterminate the monsters" who carried out the attack which killed 40 people.

Another 256, many of them children, caught in the fire and shock waves from the blast or speared by glass from shattered windows in the crowded street, were wounded.

Mr. Zeroual, the fourth president in Algeria's three years of violence pitting security forces against Muslim fundamentalists, promised the patients they would be well cared for.

"The whole world knows that the Algerian people and state will not yield before barbarism. This type of operation gives us more strength and effectiveness in pursuing our struggle against these monsters until they are exterminated," he told reporters.

Newspapers said a suicide bomber at the wheel of a stolen white Fiat packed with 100 kilograms of TNT had pulled off Monday's bombing, the deadliest attack in the guerrilla warfare that has killed some 20,000 people.

The driver was a "terrorist kamikaze" who drove straight into the building, El Watan and La Tribune newspapers said.

The police on duty had just time to fire a round in his direction, Al Watan said, adding that the two-metre-wide crater left by the explosion proved that the attacker wanted to cause maximum destruction and deaths.

The car bomb incinerated numerous vehicles and shattered windows in buildings several blocks away. Downtown businesses were especially crowded in anticipation of the month long Ramadan holiday, which starts Wednesday.

Most of those injured were pedestrians, including many women and children. Numer-

ous other victims were aboard a passing bus that was ignited by the blast.

The car that contained the bomb was reduced to a heap of twisted metal. State radio said it was stolen Monday in the Algiers suburb of Larbaa, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold.

La Tribune, an independent daily, quoted witnesses as saying the car suddenly veered off its lane and headed towards the police station before exploding.

Bombs have been used increasingly in the past year of the conflict, a guerrilla-style struggle that has been mainly confined to hit-and-run gun and knife attacks. There had been about six previous car bombings, some claimed by the armed militants. None killed more than five people.

Mr. Zeroual pledged to forge ahead with his plan for a presidential election "by the end of the year" and said "the state has asked international organisations to send observers."

Ordinary people said they feared that they would no longer be safe anywhere from the terror campaign. Last October, five smaller car bombs exploded here simultaneously, wounding four people.

Newspapers carried horrific pictures Tuesday and said that blood and flesh could be seen stuck on the upper storeys of buildings. Al Watan reported: "Some of the pieces of flesh being picked up with spoons by fearful men were no bigger than a little finger."

France, the former colonial power in Algeria, denounced the bombing, saying it marked a new escalation in violence in the country's civil strife.

Kuwait, Spain, the Council of Europe and U.N. agency also condemned the blast.

"France condemns the murderous attack which cost the lives of several dozen people, most of them women and

(Continued on page 7)

Libya says it is cleared of Pan Am blast charge

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya said Tuesday that a report in a British newspaper had cleared it of charge of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

"The new flawless evidence invalidates the Western allegation and proves the innocence of the two Libyan suspects in the so-called Lockerbie affair," Libya's state-run radio said.

"U.S. and British intelligence have been persistently trying to mask the truth which confirms their implication in the incident.... The U.S. and British governments insist on using Libya as a scapegoat for political reasons."

The Independent said Monday a secret Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) document challenged prosecution evidence that the bomb that destroyed the Pan Am plane was loaded onto the plane in Frankfurt, after arriving in Germany on a different flight from Malta.

British and U.S. authorities have charged Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah and Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi, Libyan Arab Airline employees in Malta, with sending the booby-trapped suitcase to Frankfurt on an Air Malta flight.

However, the FBI briefing paper states "there is no concrete indication that any piece of luggage was unloaded from Air Malta 180, sent through the luggage routing system at Frankfurt airport, and then loaded on board Pan Am 103." The Independent said.

The document suggests the baggage records were "misleading" and the bomb suitcase might have come off another flight or simply been a "rogue bag inserted into the system," said the British newspaper.

The U.N. Security Council in April 1992 imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya to force it to hand over the two Libyan suspects for trial in the United States or Scotland.

The sanctions were tightened in December 1993 with a ban on some oil-related equipment and a partial freeze on Libyan assets abroad.

The Independent's report follows one by the Scottish Daily Record last week that U.S. intelligence documents released under the explosion which cost 270 lives.

Both London and Washington insist the evidence still points to Tripoli. The German authorities meanwhile reacted angrily to allegations it could have prevented the bombing.

The Sunday Telegraph reported Sunday that a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) had been arrested by the German authorities in October 1988 only to be released soon afterwards, two months before the Lockerbie bombing.

The newspaper said that he had been freed even though another man arrested at the same time had identified him as an explosives expert. It said the man was now regarded by several experts as the brains behind the attack on the Pan Am flight.

A spokesman for the German federal prosecution service, based in Karlsruhe and responsible for affairs involving terrorism, described the charges Monday as "absurdities."

He denied allegations made by the Sunday Telegraph that the man had been arrested in possession of detonators of the type used in the bombing which had been handed back to him when he was freed.

The authorities confirmed that the man named in the report had been arrested, with two other people, for an attack carried out against an American ammunition train in October 1988.

But they said no detonator had been seized and that the man had been freed in the absence of sufficient proof.

Toxic chemicals found at Beirut port - Greenpeace

BEIRUT (AFP) — Greenpeace experts found toxic chemicals in barrels of waste stored at Beirut port during analysis of their contents, the environmental group said in a statement received here on Tuesday.

It urged the Lebanese government to take steps to dispose of the waste and set up a safe storage system.

The Lebanese authorities were meanwhile considering legal action after a member of parliament, Samir Aoun, last week accused government officials, including Environment Minister Samir Moqbel, of involvement in waste dumping, the press said.

"The barrels contain methyl acetate and ethyl acetate, a highly flammable liquid used in the production of plastics, and toxic chlorinated paraffins, as well as toxic heavy metals in solid waste," the Greenpeace statement said.

"The acetates are water soluble and could easily leak out and contaminate the ground water supplies of an aquifer.... It would take a comparatively small amount of acetate to contaminate an aquifer for many years," it said.

Greenpeace experts took samples from dozens of barrels of toxic waste during a visit to Lebanon in November amid widespread allegations that the waste was poisonous.

The barrels were found in August and September in the Keswan mountains north-east of the capital and transported to Beirut port.

At the time Mr. Moqbel identified the waste as ethyl acetate, stressed the waste was not toxic.

"The Lebanese Environment Ministry made a mis-

take in the summer of 1994 when it tried to dump the acetates in the Keswan mountains," said Fuad Hamdan, the Hamburg-based spokesman for Greenpeace's Mediterranean operations.

"Dumping is no solution in getting rid of toxic waste," he said, noting that the mountains were an aquifer region, consisting of water-bearing rocks.

The analysis was carried out by Greenpeace experts at Exeter University in Britain.

"Greenpeace scientists found hydrocarbons from oil residues and chlorinated substances like HCB, a highly toxic chemical that causes neurological damage and renal necrosis and is a suspected carcinogen," Greenpeace said.

It also reported finding toxic heavy metals in the solid waste samples from the containers, which "exceed permissible levels."

Large amounts of lead were also found in a separate sample taken from the Keswan mountains and given to Greenpeace by a "reliable source" in Beirut, the group said.

Some 16,000 barrels and 20 containers of toxic waste were dumped in Lebanon during the 1975-1990 civil war and most of it remains in the country, according to Greenpeace.

Many experts in Lebanon believe the barrels found in the Keswan region are part of a shipment of highly toxic Italian waste illegally imported to Lebanon in 1987-1988.

"The Lebanese government must order a search for all missing barrels dumped since 1987-1988 in areas like the Keswan mountains," Mr. Hamdan said.

Relatives visit Khiam jail for first time in years

KHIAM, Lebanon (Agencies) — Four Lebanese prisoners held for a decade in Khiam jail in an Israeli-controlled strip of south Lebanon were allowed Tuesday to receive visits from their relatives for the first time in several years.

But Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which runs the prison along with the Israeli army, refused to grant access to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC has been barred from visiting Khiam prison since it was set up in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in 1985.

Relatives were allowed in until three years ago when the SLA suspended the visits but the ICRC maintains the last visits took place seven years ago.

The ICRC delegate in Beirut, Bernard Pfefferle, confirmed that the Red Cross was not allowed to inspect the prison.

"The importance of the agreement is that all detainees without exception will be allowed to receive visits from relatives," Mr. Pfefferle said.

The visitors, all female except for one elderly man, were escorted to SLA headquarters in Marjayoun, in the "security zone," by two delegates from the ICRC.

From there one group was taken to Khiam prison near the border with Israel for a 10-minute visit, while the family of Rashed Ahmad Hijazi went to visit him at Marjayoun hospital.

Mr. Hijazi, a 45-year-old father of six children, has been treated in hospital for around a month for a blood clot on the brain which caused partial paralysis.

His father, Ahmad, and Mr. Hijazi's 10-year-old

daughter Mariam, were among those who went to his bedside and appealed for his speedy release from jail.

"I cannot express my feelings enough. I haven't seen my son in 10 years," said a woman, who declined to be identified, as she entered Khiam jail.

When first set up, Khiam prison had more than 400 inmates. But some have since been freed.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said in a statement in Beirut that 260 alleged anti-Israeli activists remained in Khiam. Another 64 have been taken to jails in Israel.

After leaving the Israeli-held sector, the families were debriefed by Lebanese army intelligence.

They would not talk to reporters, apparently warned by ICRC that statements might undermine future visits.

A Lebanese security officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the families told the Lebanese army they were disappointed because they were only allowed to see the prisoners through metal screens.

Most of the Khiam prisoners are Lebanese or Palestinian implicated in a guerrilla war for the eviction of Israeli troops from the "security zone." The bulk have been there for almost 10 years, although a few were captured later.

No visits by relatives or humanitarian organisations had been allowed before.

The Lebanese government and several international human rights organisations have been demanding an improvement of treatment of the Khiam prisoners. The government says at least 14 prisoners have died either from maltreatment or malnutrition.

Russians intensify bombing of Grozny, but gain little

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian forces intensified their shelling of rebel strongholds in the Chechen capital Grozny to try to take the city, and battles flared in other parts of the breakaway region.

Russia's more experienced Interior Ministry troops have started replacing Russian soldiers in Chechnya and are setting up bases in northwestern regions controlled by the Russian army. Deputy Interior Minister Alexander Kulikov said.

He told a press conference the Interior Ministry troops were setting up five police departments in this area. Moscow is sending them in to police the breakaway Caucasus republic once it manages to restore Russian rule.

The elite Interior Ministry forces have been present in Chechnya since the start of Russia's intervention six weeks ago, charged with patrolling strategic roads, while the army has been engaged in the fighting.

Mr. Kulikov said it "is difficult to specify" when military operations will end in Chechnya.

But when they do, the Interior Ministry will set up 11 regional departments manned by 2,500 men as well as "a brigade of Interior Ministry troops who were already in Chechnya before Dzhokhar Dudayev's arrival in power," the official said.

In all, 2,700 Interior Ministry troops from 40 regions in Russia are now deployed in Chechnya, he said.

Mr. Dudayev proclaimed his tiny oil-rich mainly Muslim republic independent in 1991.

The deputy interior minister said armed formations from the Chechen opposition "will be admitted into the police regiments in Chechnya after passing the necessary exams."

The process of replacing the army with Interior Ministry troops could take from 10 to 15 days time, according to a senior Russian military official in Moscow, the town of Dagestan used as a Russian base to launch its assault across the border in Chechnya.

The Russians rained shells on the central Minutka Square and the Chernorechne and Aldy suburbs on the shattered city's outskirts, Russian news agencies said.

Battles were also reported at Grozny railway station and near the Khankala airfield just outside the city. The official ITAR-TASS

news agency said artillery fire on Grozny had been stepped up since Tuesday morning as the Russian forces prepared for the "conclusive stage" of their campaign.

It quoted the government's press service as saying Russian troops had crossed the Sunzha River, one of the front-lines in Grozny, but the report could not be confirmed independently.

"Fighting also erupted around Argun, about 15 kilometres east of Grozny, and in Samashki, a village 60 kilometres west of the capital which lies on the only road open for refugees fleeing to the neighbouring Ingushetia region."

Reuters correspondent Richard Balfour, who passed through Samashki early on Tuesday, saw a Russian armoured personnel carrier lying by the road, apparently torn apart by an anti-tank weapon or grenade launcher.

Chechen fighters said the vehicle had been part of a military convoy which they attacked on Monday.

The Russian government's press service said moves were under way to prepare for the final stage of the military operation but Chechen resistance remained stubborn.

Egyptian official says tomb of Alexander found

CAIRO (AP) — The head of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation said Tuesday he believes archaeologists have found the long-sought tomb of Alexander the Great.

"I do feel that this is the tomb of Alexander," Abdul Halim Nouredin told the Associated Press. "All the evidence is there."

He added: "We have dreamt about this for a long time. When you find it, you never quite believe it."

Mr. Nouredin, one of the country's ranking Egyptologists, made the statement after visiting the site near the oasis of Siwa in Egypt's western desert. Siwa is 80 kilometres east of the Libyan border.

The burial place of Alexander is one of the great unsolved mysteries of the ancient world. History has it that the Macedonian warrior died in Babylon, Iraq, and that his body was moved to Syria and then to Egypt.

But the burial place was never found.

A Greek expedition discovered two limestone plaques near what appeared to be a large tomb at Siwa.

The plaques were written in Greek and talked about Ptolemy, one of Alexander's aides and his successor, brought his master's body to the tomb and buried it, according to newspaper reports.

Mr. Nouredin said there was no question but that "it is a royal tomb." He noted that it is "very big, so it is not for

the ruler of the area or the province."

Newspaper reports described it as 40 metres long and 20 metres wide and built with big stones, indicating it was for a very important person.

Mr. Nouredin added that the inscriptions provided "very good evidence" that it was Alexander's. One reference, he said, appeared to be to "the first and unique among all."

Mr. Nouredin said he was asking Greek-language specialists in the antiquities organisation to prepare fresh translations of the writing on the plaques.

The Greek archaeological team, headed by Leana Souvalze, has been digging at Siwa for four years. Mr. Nouredin said the team would continue its work and that he would send other specialists to see the site.

Other convincing evidence appears in references at the tomb to Amun, the sun god. About 570 B.C., the Pharaoh Amasis built a temple in Siwa to Amun, and the temple oracle gained fame for answering even the most difficult questions. The Greeks later called the God Zeus.

Alexander went to Siwa in 332 B.C. for a private audience with the oracle. According to legend, the oracle told Alexander he was divine and Egypt's rightful owner. Alexander took Egypt without a struggle.

He is believed to have died in 323 B.C. at the age of 33.

Egyptian economist takes ESCWA helm

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali has appointed a prominent Egyptian economist as the new executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Dr. Hazem Abdul Aziz Al Beblawi, chairman of the Export Development Bank of Egypt and chairman of the Export Credit Guarantee Company of Egypt, will begin his tenure of ESCWA as of today (Wednesday), at the level of under-secretary general, an ESCWA statement said.

Previous posts held by Dr. Beblawi include member in State Council, which is the highest legal authority in Egypt (1957-1960), assistant professor at Kuwait University (1969-1971), assistant professor at Alexandria University (1971-1981), senior economist at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1974-1976), director of the research department in the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (1980-1983), and member of the board of directors of the French company SIPAREX.

In addition, Dr. Beblawi supervised the economic unit of the Centre for Strategic Studies of Al Ahram (1971-1972), and was a visiting professor at Sorbonne University

(1968) and at the University of California in Los Angeles (1979). Dr. Beblawi has also served as a senior adviser to the Egyptian delegation to the multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Dr. Beblawi is a member in many associations, including the Egyptian Association for Economics, Statistics and Legislation, the Union of Arab Banks in London, and the editorial board of the Journal of Arab Affairs which is published in California. Dr. Beblawi has published numerous books and articles in Arabic, English and French. He has also received the award for the best doctoral dissertation from the University of Paris (1965) and the Kuwait Award in Social Sciences (1983).

Born in Cairo on Oct. 17, 1936, Dr. Beblawi received his bachelor's degree from the University of Cairo's faculty of law in 1957. Also from the University of Cairo, he received a higher diploma for political economy in 1958 and a higher diploma in law in 1959. From Grenoble University in France, he received a higher diploma in economics in 1961. In 1964, Dr. Beblawi received his doctorate in economics from Paris University.

Dr. Beblawi is married and has three children.

Dr. Beblawi succeeds Dr. Sabah Bakjaji, who served as ESCWA's executive secretary for two years.

Prosecutor says Abdul Rahman planned widespread terrorism

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A fiery Egyptian cleric and his followers planned widespread destruction and slaughter in the United States "the likes of which the world has never seen," a federal prosecutor has charged Monday.

Prosecutor Robert Khuzami made his accusations in opening statements in the case against Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 11 others accused by prosecutors of planning to wage "a war of urban terrorism" in this country.

"This is a case about war... the soldiers who fought the war are seated before you in the courtroom," he told the jury. "They spoke of war. They planned destruction and death that any army would be proud of."

The group is accused of helping to plan the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing that killed six and injured more than 1,000 and with plotting to bomb the United Nations headquarters and bridges and tunnels leading into New York City.

The indictment alleged they are responsible for the November 1990 murder of radical Rabbi Kahane in New York and that they had planned to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a 1993 U.S. visit.

One of the key defendants in the case is Al Sayid Nosair, who was acquitted

state charges that he killed Kahane but was convicted of lesser weapon charges.

Mr. Khuzami said the violence in New York was just the first part of the group's plan to carry out a "full-scale" war of terrorism throughout the United States "the likes of which the world has never seen."

He alleged that Sheikh Abdul Rahman told the government's confidential informant Emad Salem he wanted to see attacks on the U.S. military. Prosecutors allege that the cleric is the group's spiritual leader who encourages the defendants to commit acts of violence.

But Lynne Stewart, one of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's lawyers, argued passionately that her client is not on trial because he committed any violent acts, but because of his sermons and religious instruction.

"It (prosecution) is based solely on his words... words uttered as religious teachings... words protected by our constitution."

The credibility of the government's star witness in the trial was called into question by every lawyer who spoke to the jury Monday.

Mr. Salem, the former Egyptian army operative who infiltrated the inner circle of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's followers, was called vile and sleazy by defence attorneys who characterised him as a

liar, a hustler and a pimp.

Mr. Salem proved such an easy target that the prosecutor tried to soften the blows with some criticism of his own.

Sure, Salem's record does not sparkle, Mr. Khuzami conceded in his opening statement.

After working as an informant for the government, he walked out on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1992 because he did not want to testify and lose his anonymity, Mr. Khuzami said.

After the World Trade Centre bombing, he agreed to return to work for the government — for a fee of more than \$1 million.

U.N. denies invitation to Waldheim

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations will not invite Kurt Waldheim, the former secretary-general accused of taking part in Nazi persecution during World War II, to its 50th anniversary celebrations, a spokesman said Monday. Dr. Waldheim, a German army officer during the war, has been denied entry to the United States since April 1987. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Peruvian who succeeded Dr. Waldheim as U.N. chief, was left off the invitation list in the June festivities in San Francisco and the October celebration in New York, which are expected to draw many world leaders. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali made the decision and Dr. Waldheim sought an invitation late last year, diplomats said. "The secretary-general has decided not to invite former secretaries-general or former presidents of the General Assembly," U.N. spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said. "He has informed both men and they have accepted the decision." Dr. Waldheim headed the United Nations from 1972 to 1982. He was president of Austria from 1986 to 1992.

Knesset ratifies treaty with Jordan

JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli parliament ratified Wednesday the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Jordan. Only 52 of the 120 deputies turned up for the formalities of the second and third readings, and just two voted against.

Both from the far-right Mafdal party, Jordan began to take control Monday of a 55-square-kilometre border area, most of which Israel seized after the 1967 Middle East war. Speaker Shevah Weiss has complained that the government handed back the land even before the treaty was ratified.

EU delegation to tour Mideast

PARIS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) will send a delegation to the Middle East next week to support the troubled peace process, a French foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. He said the EU would send a delegation to the Middle East from Feb. 7-10, with successive stops in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. The delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

France, which currently presides the EU, and will include representatives of Spain and Germany, respectively France's successor and predecessor at the EU's helm. "We support the peace process and hope that the current difficulties will be overcome as quickly as possible," Mr. Juppe said.

U.S. scales back atom bomb exhibit

WASHINGTON (R) — The Smithsonian Institution, bowing to a wave of political criticism, said it would scale back an exhibition of the U.S. bomber Enola Gay which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

"We made an error," Smithsonian Secretary Michael Heyman told a packed news conference called to announce the decision approved by the National Museum's Board of Regents. Critics, led by veteran groups, had said the original exhibition painted America as villain and Japan as victim. It gave a graphic account of the devastation caused by the bomb. Mr. Heyman said he regretted the year-long controversy which he said "got in the way of our commemorating our nation's victory over aggression 50 years ago."

The National Air and Space Museum, a branch of the Smithsonian, will now cut out controversial text and pictures of the Hiroshima victims.

Palace denies U.K. Queen urges sons to divorce

LONDON (R) — Newspaper reports that Queen Elizabeth held a royal summit with her sons Charles and Andrew to urge a double divorce from their estranged wives prompted a palace denial Monday.

Press accounts said she acted to save the British monarchy, hit by scandals that have damaged its once-high prestige. Newspapers quoted royal sources as saying the queen bluntly told the prince at the end of last week at her country estate that divorce was vital to polish the family's tarnished reputation. Both royal heirs, Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana, and younger brother Prince Andrew and Sarah, have been separated since 1992. "The Queen believes it is important for the state of the monarchy that decisive action is taken," one royal source is quoted as saying in Monday's Daily Express. "Once the divorces are through, the monarchy can make a fresh start." But Buckingham Palace denied media versions of events. It said it was inaccurate to describe the meeting at Sandringham in eastern England as a summit and "wildly speculative" to link it with the princes' marriages.

Separated twin speaks, sister critical

TORONTO (AFP) — Hira Jamal, one of the Siamese twin sisters from Pakistan who were separated by surgeons last week, is "awake, alert and continuing to improve," doctors said Monday. But her sister Nida is having a tougher time and "remains in critical condition" and is under heavy sedation with a ventilator breathing for her, "a statement issued by the Hospital for Sick Children here said.

Hurd: Libya still prime blast suspect

LONDON (AFP) — British members of parliament (MPs) Wednesday accused the United States of hiding facts implicating Iran in the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing, but Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said Britain's stance against Libya had not changed. The House of Commons hearing came in the report last week that newly released U.S. intelligence showed an Iranian \$10 million had paid extremists to bomb the early stages of the investigation.

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PNA wrecks P...
Gaza (R) — The Palestine National Authority (PNA) said Sunday that it had demolished five houses built by Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip.